FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ROS DEPARTS FOR MALVINAS NEGOTIATIONS

PY241714 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM) -- The under secretary of foreign relations, Ambassador Enrique Ros has requested Argentines to be patient and to trust government decisions on the Malvinas Islands issue since they will be the best in keeping with the circumstances and with past and future events.

Ambassador Ros made this statement yesterday before his departure for New York where he will attend the UK-Argentine negotiations on the sovereignty over the Malvinas, Orchads, Shetland, Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

Ros noted that these negotiations had been originally scheduled for December but they had to be postponed for well-known reasons.

Ambassador Ros said that Argentina wants to give the negotiations a new thrust and that in keeping with this objective Argentina has called on international public opinion and the UK to start serious negotiation proceedings to comply with the UN mandate estabalished in the three resolutions that several UN General Assembly sessions have issued on the Malvinas Islands issue.

Ros added that throughout the years our country has expressed its willingness to negotiate, it has worked patiently, with perseverance and imagination but only the future will tell whether this effort pays off.

Regarding statements issued by UK Government officials who belittled the importance of the meeting, Ros noted that these statements are subjective "Since I believe that the importance of any meeting must be established only after it is held. Nevertheless, this is our responsibility since we are responsible members of an international community in the United Nations."

He added that Argentina's position is internationally known and that our country will firmly continue to uphold the same position it has maintained on the issue.

Ambassador Ros said: I believe that this issue has no political motivation since it is a position that all Argentine Governments have maintained. There cannot be great variation in our position since this is the unanimous national will.

VISITING SALVADORAN OFFICER GREETS GALTIERI

PY240252 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA) -- Col Rafael Flores Lima, Salvadoran Armed Forces chief of staff, today attended a lecture at the headquarters of the army and afterwards conveyed his greetings to Argentine Army commander in chief, Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri. Patricios Infantry Regiment troops met the foreign military officer with customary honors upon his arrival at Libertador building. The visiting officer then went, together with Argentine commanders and officers, to the 5th floor of army headquarters where he attended a lecture by members of the Argentine Army general staff who briefed him on army activities and plans.

At the end of the lecture Colonel Flores Lima conveyed his greetings to General Galtieri, commander in chief of the army.

CGT MEETING ENDS WITH SHOWER OF PAMPHLETS

PY232340 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1648 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (NA) -- Applause and shouts of approval could be heard while a shower of pamphlets started falling from the second floor in the General Labor Confederation (CGT) building at 1230, when the meeting of CGT regional delegations ended.

One of the pamphlets read: "We have human rights but they are violated in the name of democracy."

Another pamphlet read: "They claim to have gained peace but they swallow the peace dove."

The last pamphlet demanded: "Return to a state of law."

All the pamphlets beared the CGT acronym.

LABOR OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CGT ABORTED MEETING

PY231326 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (TELAM) -- Under Secretary of Labor Hector Pedrerol today said that it is not true that the meeting of union leaders of the CGT union sector was prohibited.

Pedrerol, who made some comments before leaving for Geneva this afternoon to attend the ILO union freedom committee meeting, said that all that was done was to remind them of current regulations.

Asked about the latest remarks made by CGT union leaders, the under secretary did discuss it, saying that the events will be studied as they take place using the good judgement which should characterize governmental acts and that decisions will then be made on what steps to take in each case.

Pedrerol pointed out: I would like to make clear -- with regard to statements that the government discriminates between friendly and unfriendly union leaders -- that any union leader with representativity has an open door in the ministry at all the different levels there, and this is proven by the fact that union leaders come to the ministry daily to explain their union problems.

He added: Minister Porcile himself after he returned from Santo Domingo called the leaders to his office to brief them on the results of his trip; and representatives of all sectors attended the meeting.

With regard to a paragraph of the CGT communique reporting alleged difficulties in expressing its opinion, the under secretary indicated that newspapers and magazines did publish the communique and that these publications usually publish the union leaders' concerns and problems. Therefore, he said, there is apparently no problem for them to express their opinion.

PERONIST YOUTH ISSUE SUPPORT STATEMENT

PY241241 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, Feb 19 (NA) -- The Peronist youth has decided to support "actively" all "actions and mobilizations" staged by either the Multiparty Group or the General Labor Confederation [CGT].

At the same time it "called upon all Argentine youths to participate in such activities since only the unity of all the people will enable the people to resume power and resume building a just, free and sovereign fatherland, today devastated by the military dictatorship that has been misruling since 1976." The statement is signed, among others, by Ernesto Tenenbaum, Danilo Darold, German Bittel, Juan Campana, Miguel Berrotaran and Oscar Guida.

RAILROAD WORKERS DECLARE STATE OF ALERT

PY231526 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The coordinating board of the railroad unions of the greater Buenos Aires metropolitan area have declared the sector "in a state of alert" and urged their members to defend their wage and labor demands.

In a short communique union representatives from the Railroad Union, the Fraternity, and the Association of Management Personnel approved a demand that the government increase salaries by 1 million pesos [presumably per month] over the present minimum wage scale.

The communique adds that the mobilization of the union will follow an action plan that does not exclude a stoppage. Sources have noted that the goal of this action plan is to keep the railroad enterprise under government control, among other things.

Other goals are: The normalization of railroad union activity, the reestablishment of the collective bargaining agreements, the repeal of the new social works law and the "immediate" reinstatement of those employees fired since 1976.

The same sources added that the recent freeze on salaries of government employees and the possible privatization of the railroads has increased unrest among railroad personnel, whose rank and file have noted in recent weeks that a sudden stoppage is necessary to protest against the present situation.

The communique issued by the new coordinating board notes that the government has enforced "anti-Argentine and antilabor measures" and that "these will necessarily have a harmful effect on the sector."

Moreover, it supports "the activity carried out by the CGT [General Labor Confederation] and the government unions coordinating boards." It also urges the latter "to unite its action with the CGT and the Multiparty Group."

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION DROP -- (NA) -- Oil production dropped 2.7 percent last month compared with January last year, the Public Works and Services Ministry said yesterday. Oil import payments rose 150 percent compared with last year in January, the ministry said. Payments were $39.7 million, $23.8 million more than in January 1981. Production was 2,339,700 cubic metres, some 62,000 less than in January 81, when production was 2,465,900 cubic metres. [All figures as published] [Text] [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 19 Feb 82 p 11 PY]

EDUCATION STATISTICS -- (NA) -- Argentina's education system covers 22 percent of the national population, with 6 million students attending 42,000 schools with 450,000 teachers, former Education Under Secretary Alfredo van Gelderen said yesterday. Van Gelderen recalled that 9 percent of the population over 14 years of age was illiterate in 1883, this figure has been reduced to 7 percent today. [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 19 Feb 82 p 11 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTRY REVEALS SUBVERSIVE PLAN

PY250255 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The Interior Ministry has reported the existence of a conspiracy by national and international extremism with serious risks to domestic security, to the tranquillity of all Bolivians and to the survival of the nation.

At a press conference held today, Interior Ministry Under Secretary Gerardo Torrez stated that through its security and intelligence organizations, the Interior Ministry succesfully concluded the investigations which led to the discovery of a subversive apparatus at the national level.

It has been possible to establish that the action uncovered had two clearly defined stages: one a subversive stage, and the other consisting of attacks and robberies. Torrez stated:

[Begin Torrez recording] After a hard and lengthy investigation, after a continuous pursuit and control at national level, the state intelligence directorate finally arrived at the conclusion that there exists in the country a preconceived plan, a program for regular rebellion, which in the beginning intends to use the rural guerrilla method with the prospect of urban guerrilla warfare to create and obtain the appropriate conditions to establish a government of the extreme left. [end recording]

He added that the perpetrators of the robbery which took place at the regional office of the Toyota Company in Santa Cruz are political militants.

[Begin Torrez recording] There is no need to tell you that with the discovery of the robbery at the Toyota office, and with the detention of the main instigators and perpetrators of that robbery, we discovered that they are all members and leaders of the political groups MNRI [National Revolutionary Movement of the Left]; the MPLN [Popular Movement for National Liberation -- Movimiento Popular de Liberacion Nacional]; the ELN [National Liberation Army]; and the PRTB [Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party]. I am sure you are all familiar with these acronyms, which are well known in the political field.

These elements are directly linked -- and it is important for you to know -- to the leaders of the Socialist International and to Castro-communist groups which are part of the international world terrorist network. It is good for you to see the perfect interconnection of these elements within the organization for political crimes. [end recording]

Torrez also reported the detention of Fernando Ordwing Rivera, alias Homero, union leader, politician and member of the MPLN. The detention of Ordwing Rivera has allowed us to clear up the robbery of the Toyota safe, he stated. [Begin Torrez recording] This man was surprized and detained while transporting weapons and provisions to the guerrilla training camp. We also later discovered the existence of a guerrilla training camp north of Santa Cruz. [end recording]

He also referred to the detention of Juan Rodriguez Guayama, and stated: [Begin Torrez recording] As I was telling you, this also led us to the discovery of the Toyota safe, and thus we also detained Juan Rodriguez Guayama, alias Commander Carlos Landivar, secretary of the MPLN international relations department, and former deputy for the UDP [People's Democratic Union]: This man has organized a broad network of logistical economic support with origins in European countries, namely in France, Germany [as heard], Poland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Central and South America, including Mexico, Panama, Quito and Lima. He initially received $60,000 in Paris, France, as logistical support, from the hands of (Pierre Durand), leader of the French Socialist Party and coordinator of the activities of the Latin American Association. [end recording]

Torrez also reported the discovery of a group of terrorists going by the name of the National Liberation Front [FRELINA] in the city of Santa Cruz. This terrorist group is made up of members of the MPLN, PRTB, PSB [Bolivian Socialist Party], POR [Revolutionary Workers Party]; MNRI, MNRH [Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement -- Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario Historico], ELN and UDP.

[Begin Torrez recording] Leaders of group A, for the MPLN, are (Carlos and Beto). I am giving you a detailed report so that you can see the procedure, the pursuit and the intelligence work carried out by our organizations. Gentlemen, I want to reiterate that the Interior Ministry is not trying to lie at all, it is not trying to conceal anything. We are giving you all the details, step by step.

The independent group B is made up of seven men and one leader, who is known by his alias (Cheledo). The ELN is headed by (Chato Peredo) who has changed his alias. He is no longer (Chato) but (Juan).

The Marxist group, known by the alias Delfin, is made up of the following members: Juan Rodriguez Guayama, alias Carlos; Fernando Ordwing Rivera, alias Homero; (Osvaldo Peredo Leyes), alias Juan. You must also be aware that Commander Carlos -- you know who he is -- has been in permanent contact with the top UDP board, especially with Hernan Siles Zuazo, from whom he received instructions. [end recording]

The subversive apparatus has been partially dismantled, the under secretary stated. Then he referred to the organization of the political branch. He stated:

[Begin Torrez recording] One political branch of the intelligence group was charged with recruiting members and carrying out agitation activities, and was led by the following subversive elements: (Roland Montenegro Rojas), alias (Beto), who was charged with the organization of labor unions and especially of factory workers; Fernando Ordwing Rivera, alias Homero, was charged with the peasant and political organizations. Delfin was charged with organizing MNRI cells in all organizations, whether labor, university, bank or education sectors. (Leonidas) was designated chief of the MNRI departmental command in Santa Cruz. There were also other lower level elements.

The objective of this political branch was to create the necessary political conditions in the country, based on agitation and destabilization of the government, so as to finally create the appropriate conditions to establish a government of the extreme left in the country. [end recording]

The Interior Ministry under secretary also stated that FRELINA had a military branch called Armed Popular Insurrection [IPA -- Insurreccion Popular Armada] whose mission was to prepare the people for an armed struggle.

[Begin Torrez recording] Among the instructors of the guerrilla training camp were (Enrique Velazquez Perez), alias (Daniel), who was charged with the physical fitness and target shooting and (Elsie Paz Mendez), alias (Pequique), charged with teaching how to assemble and dismantle weapons and to transport provisions from urban centers to the camps. [end recording]

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT MORE ARRESTS

PY230238 Paris AFP in Spanish 2114 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Diplomatic sources here today reported that Bolivian security forces carried out dozens of arrests over the last few hours. The same sources indicated that this seems to be an offensive aimed at preventing further and greater reactions against the economic measures issued on 5 February, which include a 76-percent devaluation of the currency and a general hike of the prices of goods and services.

The new arrests, in addition to the 40 made by last weekend, have doubled the number of prisoners. Business circles have indicated that the factory workers, the main sector of urban manpower, will be negotiating salary hikes with the national industrial chamber in the coming days. The industrial chamber is made up of the executives of Bolivia's private sector. Meanwhile, rank and file leaders of the Bolivian mineworkers are scheduled to deliver, by next Wednesday, an answer to the official proposal regarding salary hikes and subsidies for various foodstuffs.

RIGHTS VIOLATIONS UPSURGE NOTED IN SANTA CRUZ

PY230234 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 18 Feb 82 p 9

[Text] Santa Cruz, 17 Feb -- The Assembly for Human Rights charged on Monday that there has been "a brutal upsurge in repression, consisting of house raids, arrests, torture and the disappearance and persecution of labor and political leaders." This organization, which is a member of an international group, also denounced "the arrest and transfer to La Paz of the following persons: Fernando Ribera; Juan Carlos Romero Flores; Percy Paz Mendez; and Juan Rodriquez Guagama.

It also indicates that the implementation of economic measures that "mainly affect the economy of the majority" makes the situation of the workers even more untenable. The Assembly for Human Rights, in a press release, indicates that the meetings of the grassroots organizations that have been legally established are being obstructed "by breaking them up and carrying out arrests." Finally, the release states that "in view of this upsurge in the violations of the fundamental human rights of man and with knowledge of the public statements by the government that it would respect the law and the legally established organizations, the Assembly for Human Rights rejects this type of conduct and demands the enforcement of the country's constitutional law and of the international agreements regarding human rights.

'IRREGULARITIES' OF FORMER OFFICIALS REVEALED

PY230208 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1822 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 15 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- The comptroller general's office has reported that more than 4,600 lawsuits have been brought against former public officials who, through alleged administrative irregularities, owe the Bolivian Government approximately $100 million.

The announcement was made by the deputy comptroller general Alfredo Villagra, who stated that the lawsuits are generally slow due to the arguments submitted by those who are involved and because many of them live in far off districts or are out of the country.

This information regarding alleged administrative irregularities must be added to other information that has been released to the public over the past year and that have now reached the proportions of a scandal.

The first charges against immoral officials emerged abroad against officials of Gen Luis Garica Meza's government (July 1980 to August 1981), who were charged with being involved in the traffice of cocaine.

Political sources said that the sums owed to the state by former directors, managers, departmental chiefs and other officials who have held public posts since 1966 were revealed to the public today. The sums of money that these alleged deals have generated for the profit of those allegedly involved cannot be calculated.

RIGHTS GROUP DEMANDS RELEASE OF UNION LEADERS

PY232226 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2050 GMT 12 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 12 Feb (TELAM) -- The Bolivian permanent Human Rights Assembly today addressed an open letter to the chief of state demanding the immediate release of all the labor union leaders unjustly and illegally under arrest. The letter also called on the government to respect labor union freedom in all that it entails.

Julio Tumiri Javier and German Grevpso [name as received], who signed the letter addressed to President Gen Celso Torrelio Villa, state that it is alarming to witness that, in pactice, the government has not granted the labor sectors freedom to reorganize their unions.

After pointing out that Luis Lopez Altamirano, Simon Rada, Victor Villaroel, Arturo Jimenez, Humberto Herbas and Edwin Perez are under arrest, the letter states that the government has declared the stoppages and strikes illegal, thus violating the workers' right to defend their salaries.

The letter then points out that it seems as if we have returned to the times of uncontrolled liberalism which strips the workers of their right to organize and leaves them in the hands of their employers. In the long run, the employers will be in charge of establishing the salaries in a unilateral manner -- in keeping with their interests -- while the official repressive forces continue to act against any attempt toward a collective vindication -- through the labor unions -- to prosecute and imprison union leaders and to orchestrate the negotiations.

The letter ends by stating that the situation is even more serious when (?state) officials announce that the arrested union leaders will be tried by the courts under the well known charges of being involved in extremist activities and agitation. Everyone is well aware that the courts do not operate independently under a de facto government.

GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST SILES ZUAZO STATEMENT

PY232119 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 18 Feb (TELAM) -- Bolivian Information Minister Jaime Humeres Seleme has stated that this is not the first time that former Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has called on former Bolivian presidential candidates, and he added: We hope they answer him.

Unofficial sources reported today that the Bolivian Government has started diplomatic proceedings to submit a formal protest to the Peruvian Government, since by issuing a political statement in Peru, Siles Zuazo has violated regulations of the right of asylum. In his statement, Siles Zuazo also urged the armed forces to return to their barracks.

CENTRAL BANK ASSESSES ECONOMIC SITUATION

PY241046 Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 21 Feb (AFP) -- A Bolivian Central Bank report released here today states that the development of the economic activity during the quarter October-December 1981 continued within a framework of unencumbered deterioration and characterized by a highly depressive situation. This technical report indicates that the current economic situation and the alarming drop in the productive index leads us to foresee a not very promising future for the business sector in the country. The widespread practice of smuggling, the decline in the development of investments, the drop in sales due to the lack of local markets and the increase of financing costs for industries are included among the factors which are causing this situation.

The most serious of all factors seems to lie on the fact that the corrective economic measures adopted on 5 February 1982 did not succeed in reversing that situation, since the trend toward stagnation in production prevails, the analysts added.

TIN SALES TO USSR, EASTERN EUROPE REPORTED

PY201852 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] During a press conference (Waldo Davalos Ofesa), general manager of the National Smelting Enterprise (ENAF), disclosed that tin production is increasing with the operation of the Vinto and Parachipampa plants. The ENAF manager pointed out that production during the past 4 years was the following:

[Begin (Davalos) recording] Four years ago we produced 15,000 tons, last year we produced 19,600 tons and this year we will reach a production of 21,500 tons. [end recording]

The ENAF manager pointed out that 1,000 to 2,000 tons of tin a year are being sold to the Soviet Union. Other countries of the socialist bloc are included in ENAF tin sales. In this regard he pointed out:

[Begin (Davalos) recording] Since we still have a tin surplus, we are negotiating sale contracts with the socialist bloc in order to sell 1,000 to 2,000 tons to the Soviet Union; 600 tons to Venezuela, because we are interested in winning the Latin American market; and some 3,000 tons to the socialist bloc countries such as Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, etc. [end recording]

TIN VOLATILIZATION PLANT RESUMES OPERATION

PY250145 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Potosi -- The La Palca tin volatilization plant resumed operations yesterday after almost 2 months of suspension.

In a press conference, officials of the Bolivian Mining Corporation explained what had been done to prevent new contamination problems and expressed their confidence that the repairs done will prove effective.

The contamination problem will be definitively solved with the construction of a new smokestack and the installation of a system for the control and "neutralization" of toxic gases.

Upon resuming operations, the plant will work at 50 percent of capacity, processing only 200 tons of concentrate a day. The plant will resume full processing of 400 tons a day of concentrate in April or May.

To reduce the chances of contamination the plant will process less sulphur-bearing ores.

RADIO FIDES TO RESUME BROADCASTING 24 FEB

PY201750 Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] La Paz, 20 Feb (AFP) -- It was reported here today that Radio Fides, the radio station run by the Jesuit fathers that was destroyed during the 17 July 1980 coup, will resume broadcasting as of next Wednesday.

The reopening of Radio Fides, which will be managed by Father Jose Gramunt de Moragas, was negotiated by the apostolic nuncio, Alfio Rapizarda, it was reported.

LACK OF POSITION ON CENTRAL AMERICA NOTED

PY241312 Sao Paulo Ó ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Feb 82 p 3

[From "Notes and Information Page": "Eighty-Two Days for an Alternative"]

[Text] Those who are responsible for Brazil's foreign policy should realize that Itamaraty's room for maneuvering in the inter-American system tends to shrink as tensions north of the border rise. In other words, at a time when in the United States the drums are resounding more strongly against insurgency, and in the Caribbean and Central America subversion is making progress, the house of Rio Branco [Itamaraty] cannot continue to defend formulas of diplomatic actions from the 1950's without realizing that they were valid only because they were backed by the apparatus of collective intervention set up by the Petropolis Treaty [the 1947 Rio de Janeiro Treaty].

The 82 days remaining before President Figueiredo's visit to the United States are more than enough -- despite the accelerated pace of developments in El Salvador -- for the political planners at the Foreign Ministry to offer options to the chief of state. No matter how much one wants to view that visit as an occasion for a relaxed conversation between two presidents who like horses and are wont to speak frankly, that visit will be highly important not only for the future of Brazilian-U.S. relations, but also to determine the role that the Brazilian Government wishes to play in Latin America.

The Brazilian Government will then learn, if it does not know it yet, that the U.S. authorities are anxiously awaiting its definitive pronouncement on the crisis in the Caribbean region, because the plans being drawn up at the Pentagon and the State Department greatly depend on the position of Brazil, whose vital interests north of the border can be affected over the medium-term by the escalation of subversion in that region. After all, the influence of a country like Brazil cannot be disregarded, especially since the international developments can lead to solutions that nobody in good conscience wants to see implemented in the hemisphere. The importance which is attached to the Brazilian position increases the responsibility of the political planners who are locked up in their offices in Brasilia processing information arriving from different places, but submitting them always to their particular Third World views.

In fact, the Brazilian policy -- even trying to maintain a "low profile" [given in English] -- has a point that is well established, namely: not to agree to any U.S. action in the hemisphere which smacks of Theodore Roosevelt, Taft or Wilson -- in short, with the "big stick" [given in English]. In that condemnation of unilateral intervention, certainly the Brazilian authorities can count on the support of a substantial segment of public opinion. This does not mean -- and the Foreign Ministry cannot forget this -- that Brazil can continue calmly sleeping under the mosquito net of the "universalist" rhetoric and dreaming of an inability to act in foreign policy. Even though going back to the beginning of this century one can blame the United States for much of what has happened and is happening in the area, one should not forget that the situation today is not that of 30 years ago. The support the United States gave then to Trujillo, Somoza and Batista was in line with the interests and ideas of the Latin American democratic community. Today the situation has changed -- and changed for the worse, considering the urgent need for answers -- because the impatience with which Reagan watches developments in El Salvador and the spawning of new developments in Guatemala and Honduras puts our government under the obligation to make decisions within these 82 days preceding Figueiredo's trip to Washington. That impatience, we repeat, puts our government under obligation to make those decisions even if in making them the government insists on the antioligarchic rhetoric -- which we referred to yesterday -- according to which subversion knocked on the doors of Latin America 40 years ago, and demolished those doors in Cuba in 1959.

President Figueiredo should not worry about what President Reagan thinks about the situation. Figueiredo will hear from Reagan the frankly expressed thinking of a chief of state who does not want to enter history as the man who did not react to the Soviet provocation in Poland and the Cuban insult in El Salvador. President Figueiredo should worry about what he will give Reagan in the way of answers -- not only to him but to all Latin America. If the Foreign Ministry were not preoccupied about Africa alone; were its planners preoccupied with upholding a diplomatic tradition, not in innovating for the sake of innovation, they would see that Brazil, allied with Venezuela, can offer a Latin American solution to the crisis in the Caribbean and Central America. Mexico and Argentina have disqualified themselves for this last move by siding with either one side or the other in the struggle in El Salvador. This leaves it to the house of Rio Branco to take the initiative in this last move. A solution exclusively shaped by the United States would be disastrous for the future of the situation north of our border. An alternative Latin American solution is still possible, provided the Brazilian Government has the courage to draw the correct conclusions from this fact: subversion must be contained, but likewise the causes of social injustice and the bases of the oligarchy must be removed, keeping Latin American interests in sight. President Castello Branco made some useful and still valid remarks in this regard.

PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS STRENGTHENED

PY241833 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Feb 82 p 11

[By correspondent Jorge Rosa]

[Text] The visits which Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado and Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge made to Brazil last week had their own and well-defined characteristics and contributed to the reassertion of Brazil's outstanding position within the relationship among developing countries or -- as Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro prefers to call it -- within the South-South cooperation. Neither Oswaldo Hurtado nor Paulo Jorge concealed the political objectives of their visits, because they were both seeking Brazilian support for crucial domestic and foreign issues which affect the two countries in their relationship with their neighboring countries in South America and Africa.

The Ecuadorean president managed to obtain President Joao Figueiredo's promise to cooperate in the search for a peaceful solution to the Ecuadorean-Peruvian border conflict, while the Angolan forign minister, revealing a moderate position, has received confirmation of the Brazilian support to its struggle for the independence of Namibia and against South Africa's apartheid policy. Itamaraty has also achieved something, because if the presence of Alacyr Federico Werner, chief of staff of the armed forces, and other military authorities at the dinner party held by Itamaraty in the Angolan foreign minister's honor may be interpreted as support, it has obtained the endorsement of the Brazilian Government's hardliners for its policy in Africa.

Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado, who was expected to come in October 1981 but decided to postpone his visit to Brazil because of the heart attack President Joao Figueiredo suffered, was the first visitor to arrive. Despite the political nature of his visit, the presence of the Ecuadorean president opened up the prospects for the enhancement of economic relations between the two countries. Important agreements, such as a friendship and cooperation agreement and a maritime transport agreement, were signed.

it was even announced that Brazilian enterprises could take part in development projects in Ecuador which amount to over $3 billion, which naturally is a bit exaggerated. The main project of the Ecuadorean Government is the construction of the Toachi-pilloton hydroelectric dam costing a total of $800 million.

A Brazilian-Canadian and a Swedish-Norwegian consortium are competing for the construction contract. A Brazilian enterprise also wants to build a stretch of the Quito-Guayaquil highway valued at $300 million. The Ecuadorean president, who was accompanied by 96 businessmen, told President Figueiredo that Ecuador was interested in Brazilian cooperation, but he also complained about two Brazilian taxes on imported goods.

The talks held by President Joao Figueiredo and Oswaldo Hurtado regarding political issues centered on the Ecuadorean-Peruvian border conflict, although they also discussed various issues of regional interest such as the situation in Central America and the relations among the member-countries of the Amazon Treaty and the Andean Pact. According to some diplomats, there is no doubt that the border conflict compelled President Oswaldo Hurtado to visit Brazil at a time when he was forced to shorten his tour -- which included a visit to Venezuela and Colombia -- due to a domestic political-military crisis. President Oswaldo Hurtado's position regarding the border conflict is more moderate. He is trying to convince Peru to carry out a new round of negotiations, which is something the Ecuadorean military men do not agree with. Oswaldo Hurtado is seeking an international consensus which will force the Peruvian Government to alter its intransigence on a review of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol which in 1941 granted Peru the right to a 175 square kilometer area conquered from Ecuador.

The Brazilian position in this regard is fundamental, not only because it is one of the guarantor countries together with Chile, Argentina and the United States, but because it is a country free of border conflicts with its neighboring countries. President Joao Figueiredo promised Brazilian cooperation to Oswaldo Hurtado but the Ecuadorean president would have been more satisfied is he had heard that Brazil would mediate instead of cooperating. The Brazilian Government tries to maintain a prudent position in these situations; and by Itamaraty decision the government has taken no stand regarding border issues. So much so that this issue was not explicitly included in the joint declaration issued by the two presidents, although Itamaraty on various occasions has officially condemned the annexation by Israel of the Golan Heights in Syria because they were conquered by force.

The visit of Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge to Brazil is of an exclusively political nature. The Angolan foreign minister himself, who leaves Brazil tomorrow after spending 2 days in Brasilia, 1 in Salvador and 2 in Rio de Janeiro, stated that he would rather leave the economic issues to the relevant organizations. Therefore, the increase of the National Bank of Angola credit line for the financing of imports of Brazilian industrial goods or the increase of sales of Angolan petroleum to the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation (Petrobras) were not discussed.

According to Itamaraty sources, Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge's main objective was to explain the political situation in southern Africa, and especially the progress of negotiations aimed at Namibia's independence. Minister Jorge's meetings with Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro lasted quite a while and in public the Angolan foreign minister tried to show the cordial atmosphere which prevails in the bilateral relationship.

In explaining Angola's role in the campaign in favor of Namibia's independence, which has caused serious problems with South Africa -- including charges of territorial aggression -- the Angolan foreign minister stated that his country together with the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) -- a guerrilla group struggling for Namibia's independence -- are determined "merely to implement Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council."

This resolution refers to the need to overcome three stages before attaining the complete independence of Namibia, which at present is under South Africa's control. The first stage, calling for the approval of constitutional rights, was due to end by the end of January 1982. The second stage will be to establish the size of the troops contingent of the UN Transitory Assistance Group (UNTAG), which is an issue the government of Pretoria -- the capital of South Africa -- is questioning since the presence of UN soldiers in Namibia could mean a certain UN partiality. The third stage would, in effect, be the implementation of Resolution 435 and as a consequence the implementation of the four-point UN program: A cease-fire between the two parties involved in the conflict (SWAPO and Pretoria); the gradual withdrawal of South African forces stationed in Namibian territory; and, finally, free elections and independence.

The negotiations for the implementation of Resolution 435 are being held among the contact group countries (the United States, the FRG, France, Canada and Great Britain); the front line countries (Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe); South Africa and SWAPO. During his talks with foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, the Angolan minister voiced his pessimism regarding a prompt resolution of southern African problems because of the struggle for Namibia's independence. He preferred to say that he was just confident that the powers involved in the process will be able to implement the UN Security Council resolution.

Paulo Jorge's visit to Brazil coincided with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Portugal. Haig's request for Portugal to mediate between Angola and South Africa upset the Angolan foreign minister, who said that he did not need any intermediaries because he was willing to hold direct talks with the U.S. Government, since he had no preconceptions "whatsoever." He recalled that he had met with Secretary Haig, during the UN General Assembly, last September and with Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary for African affairs, in Paris in January 1982.

In the joint communique the Brazilian Government, through Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, reasserted its support for Angola and renewed its request for a prompt solution to achieve Namibia's independence. The subject of the presence of Cuban troops in Angola was not mentioned in the document signed by the two foreign ministers, but Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge explained that the gradual withdrawal of Cuban military forces, on the initiative of the Angolan Government, has been interrupted several times "because of the constant and criminal South African aggressions against Angola." The Angolan Government has decided that the withdrawal of troops will only be resumed when South African troops withdraw from Namibian territory. He pointed out that Cuba has promised to "comply without any hesitation with any decision of the Angolan Government regarding the withdrawal of Cuban troops."

BRIEFS

LABOR RELATIONS INSTITUTE -- The National Labor Relations Institute will be headquartered in Sao Paulo. The institute was created under an agreement between Brazil and the International Labor Organization. It is the second of its kind in the Americas. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Feb 82 PY]

PRESIDENT CONTINUES TOUR IN SOUTHERN CHILE

PY241220 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Relay from the 10th Region by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpts] In his desire to increase his personal contact with the Chileans during his tour through southern Chile, President Pinochet yesterday morning first visited Futaleufu where he presided over the inauguration of the Futaleufu-Puerto Ramirez highway at the (El Espolon) Bridge, an important [word indistinct] of this north-south highway. Later on he boarded a helicopter to go to Alto Palena, the provincial capital, where he was received with the same enthusiasm as in Futaleufu. At about 1930 the president left Alto Palena to go to Chaiten, where he started his activities by pointing out the importance of the southern longitudinal highway which he will inaugurate today at approximately 1100. The ceremony will be attended by ministers and other government authorities.

ROUTINE NAVY ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN REGION REPORTED

PY241910 Paris AFP in Spanish 1434 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 24 Feb (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the Chilean Navy is carrying out routine activities in the southern region of the country, that there has been no special activities and that none of its ships have fired a single shot against Argentine ships in the southern region. On Tuesday the Chilean Government issued a strong formal protest against the incursion in Chilean waters of an Argentine patrol boat that anchored near Deceit Island, located in Cape Horn, which according to Buenos Aires press agency reports had to defy warning shots fired by a Chilean patrol boat.

In a statement issued today in Punta Arenas where the command is headquartered, the chief of the Chilean southern naval command, Adm Jorge Baeza Concha, denied that any Chilean ship had fired shots against Argentine ships.

Moreover, in Santiago the navy chief of staff, Vice Adm Maurice Poisson, said that the Chilean patrol boat that contacted the Gurruchaga had only sent a message to its commander to warn him that the ship was violating Chilean sovereignty.

In a report on the incident which has been submitted to the Chilean Foreign Ministry and which is published in the government newspaper LA NACION, Admiral Poisson notes that the Chilean Navy upholds the Montevideo agreement and has not mobilized any of its ships deployed in the southern region.

FOUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SENTENCED TO BANISHMENT

PY241140 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Four university students who were arrested in Punta Arenas city on charges of carrying out activities of a subversive nature and of political agitation have been sentenced to banishment. This information was disclosed by the Interior Ministry in a communique released by the government's Information Secretariat, which points out that the four students have been sentenced to banishment to towns in northern Chile. The communique mentions the name of the persons involved in political agitation activities on behalf of Marxist organizations in that southern city, as well as the name of the towns where they will serve their sentences. (Mauricio Francisco Ulloa Baria) will serve his sentence in Sierra Gorda; (Claudio Aro Diaz) in Quillagua; (Pedro Aro Diaz) in Tierra Amarilla and (Grisel Esperanza Monjes Vildosola) in Inca de Oro.

DOMINICAN PREMIER, VENEZUELAN MINISTER TO VISIT

PA241425 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Bogota -- Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles will arrive here on 1 March for a 3-day official visit as part of the government policy for an opening of the Caribbean. During her stay, she will meet with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds. Charles is thus responding to a direct invitation by the Colombian president.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry announced that Venezuelan Defense Minister Brig Gen Bernardo Leal Puche will arrive in the country on the same day. He will meet with government officials.

PRESIDENT TURBAY REAFFIRMS ELECTION GUARANTEES

PA222334 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2146 GMT 20 Feb 82

[President Turbay Ayala's speech at Plaza Bolivar, Manizale -- live]

[Excerpts] I have not chosen my ministers from among the lukewarm people of the [words indistinct] parties but from among the positive people. All of them, liberals and conservatives, work together for the one and only fatherland that we all serve with the same desire for its enhancement and the same hope of acting wisely. Naturally, the country has been gaining daily political awareness. Liberals and conservatives don't confront each other like savage tribes. They coexist as citizens of the same fatherland with the same ideals, and whose only goal is to improve themselves and to see who serves better, within their doctrines, the interests of the whole nation.

I, for instance, as a liberal, feel obliged to guarantee the rights of the conservatives and to allow all forces, even the most extreme ones of opposition, to participate in the elections with the same guarantees. I don't want guarantees for my party only but for the whole nation which elected me as its president. [shouting in the background]

Naturally, each [word indistinct] has its own style, and we must respect it. But mine was not come to the plazas saying that I was not the candidate of parties but affirming that I was a liberal candidate who would have a national government. [shouting in the background]

Even more serious, or rather, my position would have been less positive, if I had shown myself as a liberal candidate to then later on have a government of a single party. We must think of the nation as a whole during the exercise of government. To know that as liberals, conservatives, communists, social Christians, we all are children of the same fatherland and we must dedicate ourselves with the same fervor to serve her. [shouting in the background]

This government, I want to rule with democratic vigor, with energy, until 7 August 1982. It is not true that the end of my government will find me in a contemplative attitude, where I will have abandoned the initiatives in favor of the fatherland, of the country, of the consolidation of peace, of the strengthening of peace, of the reconciliation of the Colombian family.

Recently, yesterday, with the signatures of all of my ministers and with the support of the political parties and the participation of the peace commission, we signed a new decree making a call for national peace, inviting those up in arms to join the paths of civilization and progress, to become true citizens to struggle like us in the public plaza under the clear light of our sky for the conquest of power. [shouting in the background]

I don't know [shouting in the background], I don't know if this sincere call, from the depth of our democratic convictions, which has been a sort of combat banner since the inception of my government, will be accepted by the beneficiaries of the decree.

But should it be accepted and should the country find peace, this shouldn't affect the electoral process or determine the conduct of anyone of the candidates. I don't think that peace will harm any candidate's campaign or that only if peace fails will the candidates continue holding the positions their parties elected them for.

I believe that peace benefits everyone. I, of course, respect the skepticism of those who don't believe that many of those who are up in arms will accept the decree. I, myself, am an skeptic. I believe that there are foreign influences in the struggle going on in Colombia -- that many of the combatants who are in the jungle cannot turn themselves in not because their spirit of Colombians will turn into a [word indistinct] but because their discipline as members of international parties makes them obey orders that are coming in from other latitudes.

If the policy of finding peace to which I am committed fails, however, I would not say that I would withdraw from the presidency but that I would try, until the last day, to find peace even if it is not achieved. And then, later on, as an ordinary citizen, I will struggle for it, and shall continue struggling according to the possibilities of the people supporting me, to find peace in Colombia. [shouting in the background]

Now elections are drawing near which are decisive for the destiny of Colombian democracy. Our actions, those of the government in general and those of each of the cabinet ministers in particular, and very especially those of the government minister, must guarantee honest elections by taking measures which are annoying in a country which is accustomed to managing the elections with a certain degree of familiarity. However, for us the elections are something so respected that it is well worth making every effort and every sacrifice to provide the best guarantees.

It does not matter that some people are saying that they do not believe in the guarantees. I am certain that they are the ones who most believe in the guarantees and that the country will never put in doubt the results of the forthcoming elections for congress and president of the republic. [applause and shouts]

This government will never permit doubts to be cast on the guarantees it provides. As I have so often said, it aspires that history will judge it severely and recognize that this was the golden hour of constitutional guarantees, that there was never any government which made a greater effort than I am making together with my cabinet ministers to guarantee the honesty of the elections, to prevent the electoral market, to stop all the [words indistinct] and to improve the just international prestige of the country. Colombia is a lawful country, it is a country which has a respectable name and tradition in the concert of civilized nations.

It is a unique country in Latin America. We have no other enemies than those at home, who want to discredit the country abroad by fighting against the government. Let them fight us with all their vigor, but let them bow reverently before the fatherland which we will (?defend) with [word indistinct] decisions. [applause and shouts]

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN -- Bogota, 18 Feb (AFP) -- It was announced in Bogota today that the World Bank approved an $80-million loan to Colombia for improving the national railroad system. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1741 GMT 18 Feb 82 PA]

PRF'S GRANADA COMMENTS ON POLITICAL STAGNATION

PY200025 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Feb 82 pp 10-11

[Interview with Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF) Secretary General Juan G. Granada -- date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] In what year was the PRF founded? How has the party developed since its creation?

[Answer] The PRF was created on 17 February 1936. The PRF has, therefore, been politically active for 46 years. But although 46 years seem like a long time, we must subtract the 30 years that the present regime has been in power.

In the last 3 decades political parties have been losing strength; and all of them -- both those which are and are not actively participating in congress -- have gradually been losing their political characteristics.

The PRF is not immune to this problem. The present situation of the political parties is alarming. Even the headquarters of the Colorado Party, which is allegedly a majority party, are as deserted on weekdays as the PRF headquarters. The Colorado Party headquarters are like a graveyard in the middle of the city. But, of course, this is understandable since no Colorado Party member would be able to carry out any political activity there. Nevertheless, after 46 years the PRF continues to be an important moral stronghold because its leadership has remained incorruptible, because party leaders have not been tempted by government posts and the party has not split. However, we have not been able to prevent a decrease in the number of party members, but this is something that is affecting all political parties in general.

[Question] How do you view the political prospects for 1982 in view of the approval of the electoral statute and the preparations for the 1983 elections?

[Answer] The political spectrum in 1981 does not promise any possibilities for change in 1982 because this country is governed by a regime that is characterized by its stagnation. It closely resembles the Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic, where nothing ever changed, neither men or conditions. Everything was the same year after year, like it is here. The only person who is able to make political moves is the president, but he does not make any because he pursues just such a policy of stagnation. He would rather not make changes, have government officials die in their posts, for one simple reasons. If an official is fired there will be several candidates for the job, but since only one will be able to assume the post the other contenders will be filled with resentment. But since appointments are made on the basis of loyalty and friendship and not on the basis of capability, any change may have a negative effect on the foundations of the system. Politically speaking, Paraguay has not changed in the past 30 years. We still have the same president, the same government party, the same cabinet members, the same administrative team and the same policies. The government party enjoys all the privileges, while the opposition is not allowed to exercise its constitutional rights. I am, of course, not referring to the hired opposition members, those who because of their obliging attitude are appointed by the government as senators or deputies to carry out an insignificant job, as they themselves admit. The events that shattered the long Paraguayan lethargy in 1981 were the arrest of Perla Yore, who was arrested by the ideologic fanaticism of those carry out dragnet operations; and the court proceedings started against lawyer Julio Cesar Vasconsellos for professional reasons.

Miss Yore had to go on a hunger strike twice in order to get her freedom; and from prison Vasconcellos published documents which were quite damaging to a judge who had shown favoritism to a defendant. In both cases the prestige of the courts was seriously eroded, in as much as they cannot protect a person's freedom when political pressure is brought to bear. On other occasions, only the scandals created by the sale of cotton seeds, the embezzlements at the development bank and the export of buffalo gained the pages of newspapers, including some leaks about some deals on Yacyreta which came from Buenos Aires. The people are getting used to all this because corruption cases come to the surface quite regularly. In the meantime, the people's representatives in congress spent hours upon hours in futile ceremonies and only at the end of the year did they read the bills submitted by the executive branch and then approved some bills increasing taxes just to boast that the year's session had been a "fruitful" one. The atmosphere was quieter in the Senate, where the elders had some words of courtesy for the opposition, quite phony words but of a better tone than those in the Chamber of Deputies, where clashes were the order of the day. This is all there is to politics in congress.

[Question] What can you tell us about the consequences of the approval of the electoral law?

[Answer] The recently promulgated electoral law has not corrected the defects in law 600. It assures two-thirds of the seats for the pro-government party, although one vote constitutes a majority (contrary to constitutional provision). So that the minorities represented in congress would vote for the law, a long tenure was guaranteed for them with the forbidding of "dissidents," and the use of symbols, banners of signs of parties recognized by the Central Electoral Board, which gives them support and facilities. The board will continue to be composed of political enemies (this is the way they refer to us) and, since they are interested in the results, the administration of the electoral process with well-known partiality will be in their hands. The so-called elections will be nothing but "ballotings" whose results will be published as the outcome of "arduous electoral struggles" with hired and well-trained opponents.

The country needs a functioning institutional regime so that it can be a republic. It also needs a system of separation of government branches, an independent court, effective enforcement of the constitution, a nonpartisan army and police, an honest and capable public administration to provide public services responsive to the interests of the nation, not of individuals. The country needs political parties concerned with the good of the nation, free from the structure of business corporations which some of them have or from the ties of discontent which seems to keep some others together. Because of all this, the prospects are not too encouraging. To have a political change, the president has to resign for some reason; it is hard to imagine what it could be. If that happens, the official party in particular will go into a turmoil searching for a replacement. Another possibility for some change on the political chessboard is the withdrawal of the Colorado Party from the government. Then we would see those who are to faithful today running down the halls, in a hurry to find a new master to whom they can pledge the loyalty that until yesterday they reserved for the Colorado Party. Well, these are only possibilities which show me that the precarious balance and the apparent calm will easily di integrate like waters breaking a fragile dike wall to flood the countryside at the sl 'lest change in the current circumstances. The next elections offer no enticement or nnovation. The president will again be forced to stay in power by the pleas of the ch ers of the Colorado Party. Deputies and senators will stay on, with the exception of some who die and have to be replaced. The ministers will keep their posts. Only the opponents, after much coming and going, will change their representatives.

[Question] Will the PRF maintain its position regarding the elections or could it be changed?

[Answer] The PRF will continue to insist on the creation of a climate of freedom and guarantees, the return of exiles, the lifing of the state of siege, the equal treatment of all parties, equal access to the communication media to make it possible for the opposition to participate with its own candidates in serious and responsible elections. PRF men are not up to slapstick electoral comedies at the end of which the actors are rounded up in congress where they are treated as "democracy's" bastard offspring who are addressed as sellouts or subversives whenever they ask for recognition of their status as representatives of the nation's sovereignty. Those who are there now are more than enough to receive that treatment. There is no need for Febreristas.

[Question] As a politician in the opposition, what do you hope for in 1982?

[Answer] As an opposition politician I hope that good sense and tolerance will prevail in the behavior of the men in government so that we all can change our methods of political action. The PRF will do its share to clear up the atmosphere of fear and sectarianism. In view of rampant vice, I hope the Paraguayan youth will ask for a place in the ranks of my party to fight corruption and those exploited by the system will join our efforts to liberate the people.

COMMENT ON BENEFIT OF GENERAL VESSEY'S VISIT

PY250049 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Feb 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Verification"]

[Excerpts] Deputy Chief of the U.S. Army General Staff Gen John W. Vessey is in Asuncion on an official visit. He is certainly a highly-qualified individual.

In addition to the political considerations that must have prompted his visit, this high-ranking military chief also has the opportunity to visit the great Itaipu hydroelectric project, about which he spared no praise. But above all there is a remark that he made that is highly significant. He said that Itaipu "demonstrates the force of the imagination and the advancement of Paraguayans in carrying out their projects."

The on-site verification of such a highly-qualified witness gives us assurance that the real situation of Paraguay will be understood at high U.S. levels.

One hopes, therefore, that more frequent verifications will help to create more understanding in Paraguayan-U.S. bilateral relations, which had been marked by misunderstandings until not too long ago. This is the highly important value of the visit by this high-ranking military personality. In conjunction with this, it is to be desired that the high-level decisionmakers in the United States be aware of the fact that through cooperation with other free and peaceful nations the emergence of totalitariansim can be prevented in the future.

VICE PRESIDENT, ILLUECA COMMENT ON REAGAN SPEECH

PA250252 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Following the speech of U.S. President Ronald Reagan before the OAS, this station contacted Panamanian Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella, currently in charge of the executive branch during President Aristides Royo's absence. Vice President de la Espriella felt that Reagan's plan is a good step toward finding a solution to a political problem with deep economic roots. We consider the speech, he said, a sober, well-defined and prudent exposition.

Based on the situation of the great majority of Central American and Caribbean nations, where the free enterprise system is predominant, we feel, De la Espriella noted, that President Reagan's proposed aid program, based on investments and commercial trade system, could be effective if put into practice. We trust, he added, that it will not impose a political price on those countries such as ours, that are independent and respectful of the principle of self-determination of peoples.

The vice president noted that the outstanding points of the program appear to be designed to encourage the private sector in the production areas on which our countries' economies are based. He added that the 12-year removal of tariffs for export products and the reduction of imports for U.S. investors in the area are certainly good incentives for present and potential businessmen. De la Espriella said in the specific case of Panama, which is mainly a service country determined to promote its agricultural-livestock and industrial sectors, the Reagan plan would constitute an effective element toward overcoming the difficulties experienced by our products on the world market. The opportunity is propitious, he continued, reminding Panamanian industrialists that if President Reagan's program is approved by the U.S. Congress, local investor will play an important role in its success because the proposed incentives would lose effectiveness if private enterprise should fail to accept the challenge and profit by it.

Once the program is approved by the U.S. Congress, Panama would satisfactorily see a more specific definition of its scope. We are hopeful President Reagan will successfully put it into practice, Vice President de la Espriella concluded.

Meanwhile, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Illueca considered this afternoon President Reagan's proposed economic plan for Central America and felt that the U.S. chief of state should have mentioned in his speech Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's peace proposal. Illueca said, however, that despite the contrast between the U.S. proposal and the figures mentioned for the area by the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], President Reagan's speech stirs hopes for the Central American region.

Regarding the economic aspect, Reagan announced that he will submit his proposal to the U.S. Congress for adoption; this means that Latin America will have to wait, the foreign minister maintained. Illueca, who commented shortly after President's Reagan's speech, compared the amount of the economic aid announced today with the $450 million already given to Nicaragua by Mexico. Illueca noted that of the $350 million announced by the U.S. Government, $150 million is already committed to El Salvador. Referring to direct U.S. aid, he said tht it is still far below the figures metioned by ECLA for Central America. According to Illueca ECLA said that 20 billion in the next 10 years is required to get Central America on its feet economically.

However, Illueca noted that President Reagan's interest is appreciated and encouraged by us. Illueca felt that it is very important for the United States, the EEC and Japan to learn about the region's economic and social problems, especially in Costa Rica, where emergency measures are currently needed.

Analyzing the political aspect of Reagan's speech, the Panamanian foreign minister felt that the problems of Central America cannot be solved through military assistance, whether from the USSR, Cuba or anywhere else. It would have been more desirable if President Reagan had examined or taken into consideration Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's proposal. Illueca noted that the voice of the Latin Americans and their statesmen should be heeded when one deals with Latin American problems.

Recently, the Mexican chief of state proposed that Cuba, Nicaragua and the United States agree not to supply arms to the Central America area and that an equilibrium should be sought through a dialogue. This situation concerns us Latin Americans; we are opposed to mobilization, whether from the East or the West, as it will mean bloodshed and sorrow to the residents of these countries, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Illueca concluded.

SEVENTEEN POLISH SAILORS JUMP SHIP, SEEK ASYLUM

PA240042 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2211 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Panama City, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Seventeen Polish sailors have asked the Panamanian Government for political asylum after deserting the ship in which they were traveling through the interoceanic canal.

The 17 sailors left the "Winetta," a tuna-fishing vessel, when it docked at one of the Balboa piers on the Pacific side of the canal to obtain fuel.

A port source told ACEN-EFE that the 17 sailors have been placed under the jurisdiction of the local immigration office while asylum documents are processed.

The ship, which arrived in Panamanian waters on 19 February, docked at Balboa on 23 February and 17 sailors of a crew of 152 immediately jumped ship. There are several officers among the deserters.

Early last January, 22 Polish sailors left 2 ships in similar situations as they traveled through the Panama Canal. They requested asylum from the local government, claiming that they were afraid to return to their country, where political upheaval has prevailed since the last months of 1981.

COLUMN QUESTIONS NUTTING'S VISIT TO EL SALVADOR

PA212038 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Feb 82 p 31

["From the Coffee Shop" column by Luis Castilla Bravo]

[Text] The U.S. Southern Command chief's visit to El Salvador demonstrates fully that there is indeed intervention in that fraternal country's domestic affairs from Panama. None of the Torrijos-Carter treaty clauses authorizes the head of the military group that must protect the Panama Canal to direct the Yankee military intervention in El Salvador.

We think Foreign Minister Illueca should say something about this new situation created by Nutting. How much longer will our national sovereignty be shown disrespect? Panama and its government do not believe in the need to intervene in El Salvador, but in mediating and helping to achieve peace in that country. If Nutting wishes to intervene, he should become chief of the Southern Command in Guatemala, where Lucas' government would gladly accept him.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT CARAZO 'PLEASED' WITH REAGAN SPEECH

PA241941 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] San Jose, 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo was pleased to hear U.S. President Reagan's announcement for an economic aid program for Central America and the Caribbean. Regarding Costa Rica, President Carazo said: "The important measures to open trade and credit, as well as budget aid, represent considerable assistance from the United States to our country." About the Caribbean region, the Costa Rican president said: "I definitely believe that the measures announced by the chief of the U.S. Government represent a practical solution to the pressing problems which are affecting more than 15 Caribbean countries, on the continent as well as in the islands."

CENTRAL AMERICAN LEADERS TO MEET 27 FEBRUARY

PA250355 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] The meeting of Central American presidents in San Jose has been confirmed. The presidents and heads of state of the Central American countries with the exception of Guatemala will attend a minisummit that will be held in San Jose on 27 February. Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, Roberto Suazo Cordova of Honduras, Aristides Royo of Panama, Daniel Ortega Saavedra of the Nicaraguan Government junta and Costa Rican president Rodrigo Carazo will participate in this meeting. The site of the meeting will be the Presidential House. They will essentially discuss the ratification of the agreement establishing the University for Peace.

Everything is ready for the Central American leaders to remain 6 hours in San Jose. They will begin to arrive at Juan Santamaria Airport at 0900 and will return to their countries at 1600. A meeting of all the leaders is scheduled to be held at 1100 at the El Zapote Presidential House and they will hold a news conference at 1500. In a special ceremony, the Central American presidents and heads of state will sign the document ratifying the establishment of the University for Peace.

Although government sources insisted that the presidents will only discuss subjects related to the University for Peace, it has been learned that they will also analyze the aid program for the Caribbean basin that President Ronald Reagan announced today. As is known, Reagan has proposed to the U.S. Congress the allocation of $350 million to help the Central American and Caribbean countries. This proposal and the elimination of trade barriers will be discussed by the presidents on 27 February.

Government sources said that another subject to be discussed by the presidents will be the integration of a common front in defense of the interests of the Central American countries. Efforts will also be made to encourage Panama to join the Central American Democratic Community as soon as possible so that the regional organization will have greater strength. Although Guatemala will not be attending this meeting because of special circumstances, it was indicated that it is very possible that after the Guatemalan elections, that government will also decide to joint the Central American Democratic Community.

The Central American foreign ministers will also be attending the minisummit on 27 February. Fidel Chavez Mena of El Salvador, Edgardo Paz Barnica of Honduras, Jorge Illueca of Panama, Bernd Niehaus of Costa Rica and Father Miguel d'Escoto of Nicaragua will be attending the meeting along with their presidents. Government sources reported that it is possible that the foreign ministers will hold a separate meeting to adopt common positions.

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTER ON PRESENT STATUS OF WAR

PA241544 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Feb 82 pp 3, 35

[Text] During a news conference attended by Salvadoran newsmen and many foreign correspondents, Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia said, "we are winning this battle, but it is not a question of indicating who is winning or who is losing, but of demonstrating to the world the professionalism that the armed forces are displaying in complying with their sacred duty, because we are fighting to defend the people's interests." The military officer said that the Salvadoran people's endorsement of and support for the institution has been a decisive factor. The minister said that another basic factor will be the 28 March elections. He said he is certain that the Salvadoran people will turn out to cast their votes despite threats and acts of terrorism. "It doesn't matter for whom they voted. The important thing is that this will be a public referendum to reject the solutions that have caused so much bloodshed," the minister said.

Referring to a statement by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, the minister said the best thing others could do for Salvadorans would be to stop helping the subversives in El Salvador, which "would be the main factor at this time in preventing more bloodshed." Similarly, the minister said that he would completely support the establishment of a blockade to halt the shipment of weapons to the subversive groups from Nicaragua.

Asked about the presence of advisers from Argentina and other countries, the minister said emphatically that there are no advisers in the country other than those from the United States. In response to questions from newsmen, he said that the authorities estimate that there are between 5,000 and 6,000 guerrillas in the country and it is not possible to precisely assess their military potential.

The minister was asked what proof is available regarding the presence of mercenaries in the country. He replied that mercenaries of different nationalities have been captured, including a Sandinist commander named Tardecilla, who has made an extensive statement on his activities in our country. Speaking of the objectives of the terrorist groups, the minister said they seek "to strangle the Salvadoran economy. That is why they have turned to the destruction of buses, telephone boxes, power poles, water tanks, bridges, highways and so forth.

The minister emphasized that at present, no foreigner is fighting alongside the Salvadorans, although we have received a flood of offers from foreigners to come to assist us. However, we attribute greater value to the offers from Salvadorans, who continuously express to us their desire to enlist in the army. This includes many youths, almost children, and many women who want to defend the cause defended by the armed forces for the good of the Salvadoran people. Before contracting foreigners, we will exhaust the valor of Salvadorans, whether youths, the aged or women who are as brave as the Salvadoran men," the minister said. On another subject, the minister said that invoking the treaty of reciprocal assistance has been considered, although no conclusion has been reached. He explained that that is a political matter entirely within the purview of the government, specifically the Foreign Ministry. In conclusion, the defense minister said that the armed forces do not need any more U.S. advisers, because the pilots and mechanics who have been trained are now demonstrating their expertise.

OPERATIONS DISMANTLE EIGHT GUERRILLA CAMPS

PA241917 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] It was reported yesterday that at least eight terrorist camps have been dismantled by army troops who participated in military operations begun on Thursday, 18 February and ended yesterday in the area between southern Cabanas and northern San Vicente Departments.

The operations began 3 days after completion of another operation in southern Usulutan Department, where some camps were also dismantled and 28 guerrillas were killed, according to military reports. The sites at which subversive camps were dismantled in Cabanas and San Vicente are Las Aradillas, El Junquillo, Palo Grande, El Carao, Amatitan Abajo, Amititan Arriba, San Jeronimo and the San Pedor hills. The same reports indicate that in some of the camps the authorities found a clinic, medicines as well as food and other supplies, presumably stolen on the highways and in other robberies.

During the 5 days of the operation, approximately 30 guerrillas were killed, including an individual with Afro-Cuban features; that is, he was tall, black and stocky with curly hair. It is presumed that he was a "commander" from the cap that he was wearing and certain documents on his body.

Other sources reported that, at the same time, other military activities are underway in southern Chalatenango and northern Cabanas because mercenaries have been reported in those areas. Meanwhile, yesterday it was learned unofficially that on Saturday, 20 February, a mercenary airplane loaded with weapons was downed in northern San Vicente, between San Lorenzo and the Titihuapa River. However, military sources reported that so far they have no specific information on this, but any data that becomes available will be released.

For his part, the defense minister announced that the armed forces are presently engaged in two important operations; one in the northern part of San Salvador and the other in San Pedro near the Titihuapa River. Their goal is to wipe out the guerrillas who have been harassing the citizenry. He said that these operations have been realtively successful.

PAPER CRITICIZES U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S VISIT

PA242140 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Feb 82 p 7

[Editorial: "Senators Disrespect Nonintervention"]

[Text] With total contempt for international law and the principles of nonintervention and apeople's self-determination, Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, sent three U.S. Senators [as published] to El Salvador to "investigate" the present situation in the country. Senators Leahy and Pell and Congressman Murtha have compromised the respect that this small group of U.S. Congressmen should have for the norms that govern independent, sovereign and free countries. Their interventionist action has already been repudiated by the Salvadoran political parties and will undoubtedly be repudiated by the people of other nations of the world.

El Salvador is not an agency of the Senate to which Leahy, Pell and Murtha [as published] belong. However, these three senators, who appointed themselves proconsuls, came to El Salvador as if this nation had ceased to be a free, sovereign and independent republic. They came here as if El Salvador were a branch of the U.S. Senate.

The attitude assumed by Leahy, Pell and Murtha represent international abuse that warrants the protest and complaint by the Salvadoran Government. Attitudes such as these are offensive to international sentiments. The only reason this visit has not had an effect on the U.S. Government is because these three congressmen and the group that might support them only represent a minority of the U.S. Congress. Leahy, Pell, and Murtha were in the country for 2 days. They must be gifted with extraordinary perception to have been able to get the true picture, not only of superficial matters, but the real basis, meaning, and essence of the present situation in El Salvador. There is no doubt that their report could have been prefabricated without their having to come to El Salvador and show disrespect for the noble principle of nonintervention.

FMLN-FDR COMPARE ELECTIONS WITH COSTA RICA

PA181801 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Feb 82 p 5-A

[Paid advertisement placed by the Salvadoran FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR -- capitals denote uppercase as published]

[Summary] The FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] of El Salvador hail the elections in Costa Rica and admire the maturity of the process, which was carried out with freedom and respect for the participants. We hereby note some comparisons between the elections in Costa Rica and those in El Salvador:

In Costa Rica: The elections have been an effective instrument for expressing the people's will; an all-civilian government has been allowed to come to power; there are legal means of resolving complaints about electoral irregularities; political organizations freely choose their candidates; no foreign observers are needed, because of the country's democratic tradition; participating parties truly represent the various sectors of society; banners and slogans of all parties are equally respected; citizens vote voluntarily; the most prominent figures in the electoral process are civilians; the electoral process is planned, developed and carried out by Costa Rican organizations, authorities and citizens without foreign interference; electoral propaganda is carried in all of the media; there are parties that oppose each other and oppose the government and there is hope of resolving the country's economic crisis by means of elections.

Meanwhile, in El Salvador: The elections have been a fraudulent and repressive means of thwarting the people's will; a military dictatorship has been perpetuated for the past 50 years; complaints are arbitrarily rejected or met with arrest, beatings, torture, exile or assassination; the ruling party becomes an official party and its presidential candidate, chosen by army officers, in turn chooses the other candidates on the party slate; foreign observers are needed just as for other dictatorships in America and foreign organizations have acknowledged that the elections are not feasible; those who hasten to participate in the elections represent conservative, unpopular and rightist sectors; the use of banners or slogans by opposition groups mark people as candidates for repression; most of the people will participate in the electoral farce only because they fear government repression if they abstain; the top representatives of the participating parties are individuals who have been disavowed by the people; the summons to the election is issued by U.S. Ambassador Hinton and his diplomatic and military cohorts; electoral propaganda is being disseminated by the OLIGARCHY, with the elections being designed to "legitimize" a de facto government, in order to later request intervention; all parties are part of the OLIGARCHY and therefore the elections will not solve the total crisis.

NOTE: Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, present defense minister of El Salvador, recently made a simplistic comparison of the elections in Costa Rica and El Salvador. We hope that this statement will point out the differences to Costa Ricans.

LET COSTA RICANS COMPARE AND UNDERSTAND THE EXTENT OF THE MANEUVER THAT THE JUNTA PLANS TO LAUNCH IN MARCH AGAINST THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE. San Jose, Costa Rica, 10 Feb 1982. [Signed] Carlos Ivan Calderon Hernandez Cedula 1-512-660

FMLN COMMENTS ON MILITARY, POLITICAL STATUS

San Marcos Lempa

PA190100 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1100 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Summary] On the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, our heroic guerrillas and militiamen are dealing harsh blows to the enemy in order to thwart the electoral farce. We killed at least 32 and wounded a great number of the enemy in San Marcos Lempa, Usulutan Department, between 14 and 15 Feburary. Information received from Commander (Bernardo Torres) on that front indicates that combined FMLN forces besieged San Marcos Lempa on 14 February from 0100 to 1630, killing 4 of the enemy and wounding 6.

On 15 February, our forces resisted an enemy attack from 0115 to 0440, killing 28 of the enemy. The enemy vented their anger on an old man from the town, whose body was found by our fighters. On the same day, at 0830, a guerrilla unit clashed with troops from San Marcos Lempa. After a 10-minute skirmish, our units withdrew. Our forces did not sustain any casualties in any of these actions.

Radio Criticizes Candidate

PA191243 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1100 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Finally the financial oligarchy has presented its cards in the elections farce and has found in Rene Fortin Magana, an opportunist, a defender of their millionaire interests. Rene Fortin, together with a group of attorneys who represent big financial oligarchs, is a member of the so-called Democratic Action Party. This bunch of handicapped persons first came out against the election farce, but they soon took their masks off and are now playing the game. Mafia ganster Fortin himself went to Washington in December 1981 to take the Yankee government's acceptance test.

Of course, Rene Fortin passed the test. Since 1963, hypocrite Fortin has been the legal representative for the bank and financial sectors in the oligarchy. It is a known fact that he owns shares (?from them). For years he has been working in the office of vulture (Margarito Gonzalez Guerrero) where he handles the accounts of oligarchic enterprises such as Compania Immobiliaria S.A., La Laguna, (Bastas) S.A., Nuevos Horizontes Real Estate, Constructora S.A., Inversiones de El Salvador S.A. of (T.V.), COPECO S.A., Compania de Inversiones S.A., Molinos de El Salvador S.A. and many other oligarchic enterprises where he is an unconditional servant.

These are the interests defended by the Democratic Action Party. The gang of attorneys who also form part of that party represent another long list of big oligarchic enterprises that mercilessly exploit the working people. How can these bandits have the cynicism to say that they defend the interests of workers, peasants, employees and the working people when the truth is that they are the lawyers for the big oligarchic enterprises for which they risk their necks.

Opportunist and cheap lawyer Rene Fortin is too skillful to try to hide behind an innocent face the big fraud he is plotting to favor his oligarchic bosses with whom he is very much identified.

Our people will not be fooled. How can the people choose from among these butchers? And those who are not butchers are opportunists at the service of the oligarchy. The people already have their alternative; the democratic and revolutionary government. And we are winning this government with rifles in hand, by strengthening our popular organizations and by fighting the election farce. Elections to the trashcan. Let's fight the elections farce by strengthening the people's organization.

Army Helicopter Downed

PA191523 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] A report issued on 18 February by the FMLN's Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front revealed the following information. [Begin recording] At 1200 today, 18 February, FMLN forces shot down at army helicopter near the Samuria canton, Jucuaran jurisdiction, killing the pilot and seven soldiers. Later, at 1900, two other helicopters made several attempts to defend and recover the downed craft.

These actions are part of the offensive launched by the army against our positions in the area, where it still maintains a large force in an effort to control our movements, block access routes and maintain the necessary pressure for new counterattacks. We also want to report the indiscriminate burning of villages, plantations and pastures by the enemy in the vicinity of Jucuaran.

United to fight until final victory. Revolution or death, we will win. [Signed] Commander (Bernardo Torres), chief of staff for the front. [end recording]

A last-minute report supplied by Commander (Bernardo Torres) of the Francisco Sanchez Front revealed that the surname of the pilot of the helicopter shot down by our heroic force was (Carcamo).

Bombings Reported

PA191659 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] We have just defeated the Yankee advisers in Jucuaran, Usulutan Department. We are dealing harsh blows to the (?paper) operation in San Vicente Department and right now we are establishing contact with Commander (Carlos Rabidranat Armijo) who will give us an account of the country's situation: [Begin relay] We want to report that today, from 0600 to 1300, FMLN troops clashed with troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade on the Pan-American Highway. At the end of the fighting, the enemy troops were forced to leave the positions which they had held at the San Felipe and Los Cocos turnoffs for 1 week. However, our combatants kept the control of these roads throughout that time. When the enemy saw that they could not make us leave our positions, the enemy (?started an air bridge).

At 1110, two helicopters and two A-37 planes began indiscriminately bombing our positions and the nearby civilian population. Mr Reagan recently delivered these planes and helicopters to the fascist junta. Despite the intense bombing and strafing, we remained in position until 1300. We want to report that these new aircraft are being flown by U.S. pilots because the junta doesn't have personnel trained for them yet.

From the morning action we report the destruction of a (Masinger) by an RPG-2 rocket launchers, 10 enemy casualties, 12 [words indistinct] used to build barricades. We also want to take this opportunity to tell the Salvadoran people and the peoples of the world that [words indistinct] most reactionary sectors of the Honduran Army, who are being trained by green berets, are preparing a new massacre and a new extermination of the civilian population living in our controlled areas in Cabanas and San Vicente Departments. We are holding the high fascist command of the Salvadoran Army, the green berets, Colonel (Alvarado), commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade and particularly Honduran Col Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, responsible for their participation and their commitment to participate in this new massacre in Cabanas and San Vicente Departments. Did you copy, over? [end relay]

Red Cross Official Slain

PA202204 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1100 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The enemy has murdered (Alejandro Rodriguez Ruano), president of the Guazapa area Red Cross. In a dignified manner, (Rodriguez) objected to the genocidal maneuvers. This 37-year-old man was found on Saturday hand-cuffed and shot in the head. According to sources close to (Rodriguez Ruano) the genocidal ones [word indistinct] were trying to use Red Cross vehicles to transport troops and supplies because they are afraid of being ambushed by our companeros. (Rodriguez Ruano) was killed when he objected to this attempt by the criminals. Neither genocide nor repression will stop the revolution.

Power Equipment Destroyed

PA210501 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[War report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front; undated -- read by announcer]

[Text] At 0100 on 19 February, a FMLN squad blew up two power transformer poles at km 39 and 41 of the northern trunk highway. One of the poles held three transformers, while the other held one. All four were completely destroyed and the power lines were cut. The following areas were left without electricity: Aguilares, San Francisco, Colima, (Las Garzitas), Hacienda los Gramales, Hacienda el Trapiche. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death. We will win.

Personnel Transfer Announced

PA211228 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Report on FMLN political rally held in Mozote, Morazan Department in El Salvador; no date given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] This is Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, broadcasting a ceremony from Mozote in which the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front is saying farewell to Companero Jose Leoncio Pichinte, who is leaving for Guazapa hill to carry out a mission in preparation for the popular insurrection on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front: [shouts of "Free fatherland or death."] A large number of companeros from the army, the production brigades and the military school are gathered here in Mozote. There are also companeros from the health school of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front. The general leaders of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front are presiding over this rally.

We repeat that with this event the front is bidding farewell to Companero Jose Leoncio Pichinte, who served as the political officer of this front, as well as the political officer of Radio Venceremos, to date. As we have said, Companero Jose Leoncio Pichinte is leaving for Guazapa hill on the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, to join in the preparations for the popular insurrection, to devote himself to mass efforts in the central part of the country.

U.S. Arms Trainers

PA212040 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The criminal Yankee advisers might have had permission from imperialism to carry M-16 rifles, the influential Washington POST disclosed. It seems that now that the press has unmasked the advisers who were accompanying the puppet troops in their genocidal actions against our people, the hypocritical imperialists are trying to legitimize their direct participation against our people.

The recommendation for this maneuver came from the Yankee ambassador, Deane Hinton, himself, who has tried in all possible ways to cover up the crimes that the so-called advisers are committing against our people. The U.S. people must not permit a new Vietnam. Everyone: let's stop the imperialist aggression. No Yankee will come out alive from an aggressive attack.

Election Boycott Urged

PA221245 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] The activities rejecting the electoral farce continue in the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front. Yesterday at 0600 guerrilla units built a barricade to vehicles on the Pan-American Highway and urged the drivers and passengers to join the coming boycott activities against the electoral farce. The enemy appeared at 0630 in three Fouga aircraft and machinegunned our position without any effects. The henchmen vented their wrath on El Carao and (Siempreviva) cantons where they dropped seven bombs.

The report from our companeros says that the revolutionary operation was successful and our objectives were attained. The militiamen and the local residents will fight the electoral masquerade with barricades.

Eastern Front Activities

PA221259 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Yesterday, 19 February, our companeros of the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front ambushed the enemy on the coastal road near La Casona. The enemy came in two trucks and as they passed our companeros attacked and caused an undetermined number of casualties. On 18 February, guerrilla units took San Bartolo, Ilopango district, and held a meeting with the residents to create awareness concerning the importance of not participating in the electoral masquerade prepared by the puppet junta for March.

San Bartolo is located in a free zone made up of industries owned by Yankee proprietors exempt from paying many taxes. The participation of the people was one of the most outstanding aspects of operation by our heroic companeros operating in San Salvador under the very noses of the enemy. Our companeros in the fighting Modesto Ramirez Central Front, in the Guazapa region are cooperating with the FMLN campaign to boycott the electoral maneuver.

San Sebastian Operation

PA221640 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 21 Feb 82

[FMLN war report on actions in San Sebastian, San Vicente Department, on the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] On Sunday, 14 February, a heavy attack was launched against enemy positions in San Sebastian, the second most important city in San Vicente Department. This attack was staged simultaneously and in coordination with other large-scale actions as follows:

1. An attack on enemy positions in the city of San Vicente with political-military troops, in an effort to establish insurrectional conditions by improving our contacts with the population. The enemy sustained seven casualties in the attack.
2. An attack on San Esteban Catarina, inflicting 15 casualties on the enemy, including the local commander, and recovering a G-3 rifle, a uniform and accessories.
3. A harassment attack on Villa de San Lorenzo in San Vicente Department.
4. A barricade set up at km 70 on the Pan-American Highway.
5. A barricade between the city of Santo Domingo and San Rafael Cedros.

6. A barricade between San Rafael Cedros and Ilobasco.
7. Harassment of the garrison in Santa Ana canton, a garrison manned by paramilitary personnel reinforced with army troops.
8. Harassment of Villa de Santa Clara.
9. Miscellaneous actions in the southern sector of San Vicente, on which we have no report to date.

The siege of San Sebastian began at 0500, with heavy fighting beginning on the outskirts of the city, where the enemy has dug strong trenches. This did not stop the overwhelming advance of the FMLN fighters, who occupied the first trenches and inflicted the first casualties.

At 0730, a light reconnaissance plane appeared, followed by a helicopter which remained for some time, strafing our positions. It killed a woman of about 75 years of age.

At 0840, the first enemy reinforcements appeared on the street that leads from Santo Domingo to San Sebastian. The reinforcements were forced to withdraw in disorder in the face of the effectiveness of our rifle fire. They sustained approximately 12 casualties. Inside the city, intensive fighting continued and our fighters continued to advance. The enemy was hemmed into the four blocks in the center of the city.

At 1135, more enemy reinforcements arrived in a Massinger truck and in a tank. They were accompanied by National Guardsmen. However, the fighting continued for another 1 and 1/2 hours, thus demonstrating that despite the powerful resources available to the enemy and the number of troops at his disposal, the FMLN fighters' morale is very high. These reinforcements clashed with one of our containment units and sustained another casualty.

At 1230, our forces withdrew in an orderly manner. In the fighting in San Sebastian, the enemy sustained over 27 casualties, including some dead. In addition, we recovered 7-mm rifle ammunition and .182-mm rounds. [calibers as heard] On our side, we regret the death of two heroic fighters.

Anti-election Rallies

PA222031 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] We are also defeating the electoral farce combatively on the Western Front. Companero Commander (Ricardo Gutierrez), chief of the general staff of the popular liberation forces at the Feliciano Ama Western Front, keeps us abreast of the constant actions of our heroic people in that front.

Yesterday between 1800 and 2000 the villages of (El Quisal) and (Ron Partido) in the jurisdiction of Texistepeque, Santa Ana Department, were occupied by squads of local guerrillas and revolutionary militia as well as by combative masses. The occupation of these villages was part of the combative campaign to unmask and boycott the electoral farce mounted by the imperialists and the mass killers. The residents of the two villages gathered to show their sympathy and offer cooperation to us after we called a meeting and distributed propaganda. Our people are fighting the electoral farce at the combative western front.

Action Reports

PA222037 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 22 Feb 82

[War report]

[Text] At 0600 on 19 February, FMLN forces staged a harassment attack on an army company assigned to the coastal area of El Espino, south of Jucuaran. In the attack, two of the enemy were killed and our fighters withdrew without incident.

The failure of the enemy operation directed against our positions in Usulutan is demonstrated by the following figures: 12 army casualties, in addition to the loss of a major and 2 lieutenants and the destruction of an Aloutte observation helicopter. This took place on 18 February between the cantons of Samuria and Jucuaran.

At 0500 on Saturday, 20 February, a column of our front occupied the Milagro de la Paz neighborhood in the southern part of San Miguel. Our forces held meetings with the residents of that neighborhood, who responded with enthusiasm to the call to prepare for the popular insurrection. The enemy arrived 2 hours later, supported by an armored personnel vehicle. We skirmished for 30 minutes. The enemy sustained two casualties. Our forces withdrew without incident. United to fight until the final victory. Revolution or death, we will win. [Signed] Commander Juan Ramon Medrano, Balta

Yamabal Seized

PA230250 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] After a 2-hour battle, guerrilla units seized the town of Yamabal in Morazan Department. The enemy sustained 12 casualties. Eleven members of the repressive forces were captured. During the operation, our heroic companeros recovered for our people the following weapons: 10 Garand rifles, 5 carbines, 1 Czechoslovak rifle, 1 45 cal pistol, 2 .22 cal pistols and 1 16 gauge shotgun. With the recovery of the enemy's weapons, our people fight the electoral farce!

Guazapa Action

PA230340 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Attention, people listening to us in the towns of Guazapa, Aguilares, Nejapa and Apopa, here is Radio Farabundo Marti with information for you. Forces of the genocidal puppet junta today tried to enter our positions on Guazapa mountain. They were only able to go as far as (Los Almendros) and the turnoff to La Mora where our heroic fighters cut off their passage and intense battles were waged. Meanwhile, an artillery battery located in the turnoff to (La Flecha) fired mortars against El Zapote, (Mirandia) and Las Pavas cantons, destroying houses and crops of the population.

For the past month, the enemy has been harassing our revolutionary positions on Guazapa with air patrols, artillery attacks and sporadic clashes. At this time, our heroic companeros of Guazapa have the situation under control, and are preventing the enemy from advancing to the zones under our revolutionary control. Onward companeros of Guazapa! Neither genocide nor intervention will stop the revolution!

Honduras Warned

PA230342 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The Honduran Army, loyal pawn of Yankee imperialism, has begun to take positions between La Virtud and the banks of the Lempa River, threatening the residents of (Quipure), (Patanera) and (Los Fernandez) among other cantons in that area of Chalatenango. The residents of the area are afraid that the Honduran troops might begin a new attack against our heroic people.

As of now we warn the Honduran Army soldiers that in our land they will only find their death. We reiterate our warning to new Honduran President Suazo Cordova: The war being waged by our heroic people can reach regional levels. We don't want to take the war to Honduras. However, we are willing to fight anywhere to achieve our definitive liberation. Suazo Cordova, there is still time for you to help avoid the spread of a conflict throughout Central America, essentially in Honduras. Your best position is to maintain neutrality.

NICARAGUA

REAGAN SPEECH TERMED 'TOTAL POLITICAL BLACKMAIL'

PA241929 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Washington -- In a speech before the OAS, President Ronald Reagan offered the Central American and Caribbean countries a Marshall Plan, asking them to fight communism in the region in exchange. This is political blackmail that was already expected, many observers commented. Under the slogan that we are all Americans, Reagan carried out an impressive verbal attack against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada accusing them of the social, economic and political problems of the area. This virulent and perfidious attack was also expected in impartial circles.

In his speech, Reagan presented a six-point economic aid plan and called for a common front in the Caribbean and Central America against the Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism, but did not explain the integration of this front. The countries of Central America and the Caribbean, Reagan said, have two alternatives; either the establishment or restoration of constitutional and moderate governments which involves economic growth and a better standard of living, or the expansion of political violence. This is total political blackmail.

PDRY PRESIDENT 'ALI NASIR PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

PA222000 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1918 GMT on 22 February, in a national linkup of transmitters, begin a live relay from the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua of the arrival aboard a "military plane" of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. The announcer notes that the reception committee at the airport is headed by the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. He then reports that the PDRY leader disembarks and is embraced by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, junta coordinator; Sergio Ramirez Mercado, FSLN State Committee member; and Rafael Cordova Rivas, government junta member. Immediately afterward, the national anthems of Nicaragua and of the PDRY are played and a 21-gun salute is rendered to the Yemeni president.

Daniel Ortega then addresses 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, noting that the PDRY flag and the Sandinist flag share the same colors and that this is not accidental, as the Yemeni flag also witnessed the struggle against colonialism. He then welcomes the Yemeni leader in the name of the Nicaraguan people, the revolutionary government and the Sandinist front.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad responds, in Arabic with subsequent translation into Spanish, by noting that he is greatly honored to be visiting Nicaragua, which is a country that is "joined with us in the principles of struggle." He notes that the visit to Nicaragua will open broad horizons between their two countries at all levels and goes on to reiterate the PDRY's support for the Sandinist revolution and to express his belief that Nicaragua will "triumph in the cause against imperialism." He ends his speech at 1940 GMT.

Afterward, the announcer notes that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the Nicaraguan leaders review the honor troop, following which the PDRY leader greets the members of the FSLN National Directorate, representatives of the State Council and representatives of the diplomatic corps in Nicaragua. The live relay ends at 1944 GMT.

'Ali Nasir Departure

PA241845 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service at 1818 GMT on 24 February carries a live relay from Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport in Managua covering the departure of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

The announcer reports that the PDRY leader is accompanied by Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez, members of the Nicaraguan junta. The announcer says that the PDRY leader ascends the stairway into the plane, turning to wave two fists to the officials, newsmen and Sandinist People's Army troops who are present to bid him farewell. The station returns to the studio at 1826 GMT without specifically mentioning that the plane took off.

ARMY, COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES CLASH AT BORDER

PA231548 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Defense Ministry Public and Foreign Relations Office Communique No 6 issued on 22 February in Managua]

[Text] The Ministry of Defense reports that today at 0730 in the (Mata de Platano) sector, some 25 km northwest of Ocotal, a Sandinist People's Army, [EPS], border patrol clashed with a counterrevolutionary gang that entered from Honduras. Three counterrevolutionaries were killed on the banks of the Suyatal River which separates Nicaragua from Honduras. When they tried to get the bodies, the counterrevolutionaries, who were on the Honduran side of the river, continued shooting in an attempt to create an incident between the EPS and the Honduran Army troops in that area.

In view of this situation, the EPS troops were ordered to withdraw to a prudent distance. The bodies of the three counterrevolutionaries remained a few meters from the border on Nicaraguan territory and could not be recovered for the reasons explained.

BARRICADA CRITICIZES IDEA OF 'APOLITICAL' ARMY

PA291449 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Feb 82 p 3

[Editorial: "The Sandinist Nature of Our Army" -- Capitalizations denote boldface as published]

[Excerpts] When Sandino described the members of his army for the defense of national sovereignty not as military men but as ARMED CITIZENS, he was defining -- with the simplicity of great and important things -- the popular essence of the patriotic struggle, which must be military but not mercenary, a quality of any army formed for repression. Its mission was to fulfill an indispensable duty to secure justice, a fatherland and freedom. This mission was to free the country of foreign domination.

After a painful and heroic period, this mission was accomplished. Many possibilities have been opened in the free fatherland for the change that justice will bring about. The tasks have increased and the enemy has become more aggressive and powerful. However, there is continuity in the decision to become free. This is a decision that comes down from the social forces of a generation that took the first step, with Sandino in the lead, and that has neither lost its identity as a class nor confused the principles that inspired it in the past. Workers, peasants, craftsmen, students, employees, patriotic professionals -- armed citizens -- have joined the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the Sandinist people's militias, thus activating a new phase of the army for the defense of national sovereignty.

There are some who insist on the need for an apolitical and impartial army, which is not committed to the FSLN. The rightwing, comprising social remnants of the old structure of domination, demonstrates with this claim that it understands very well the nature and the role of the EPS as an impediment to their attempts to restore the past.

Those who have been seeking an "apolitical" and professionally repressive army do not recognize the legitimacy of the Sandinist people's revolution. It is obvious that they are in the wrong time and place...even though they claim to be Nicaraguans and breathe the same free air that they want to snatch away from us.

COMMENTATOR NOTES SANDINIST LINKS WITH CASTRO

PA240215 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Moises de Jesus Ulloa Duarte commentary]

[Text] In reference to Jose Lopez Portillo's visit to Nicaragua, where he went from Mexico to receive the Augusto Cesar Sandino award for relevant services to the Sandinist cause and to make further recommendations on how to resolve the Central American situation, we have certain comments about the revolutionary process that the Mexican president so fervently defends and that has duped so many.

No one who defended the Nicaragua revolution in good faith, honestly believing that it was a struggle for liberation, should feel ashamed. Somoza was a dictator and, as such, he had to be fought. And he was, until he was overthrown. The sad thing would be to have contributed to this fall with foreknowledge of what was to come for Nicaragua and Central America -- as we think well-informed men, such as national leaders who seek to be Latin American leaders, must have had, if only because of facts and history. These leaders include men like former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Jimmy Carter of the United States, Lopez Portillo of Mexico and Rodrigo Carazo of Costa Rica, who is a special case.

Among the people and organizations that always opposed the Somozist dictatorship -- simply because it was a dictatorship -- there are some that, after admitting their mistake, in which bad faith and personal political interests played no part, now firmly reject Sandinism, realizing that they were used as typical fools and that the Nicaraguan people were the victims of one of the most tragic and bloody jokes in history.

It is a proven fact that the Nicaraguan people, in general terms, do not want, indeed reject, communism, and now more than ever before, because they are experiencing a somber era under the Marxist regime of the commanders-commissars. The worst aspects of this era must eventually be made public.

We have the examples of people and organizations that are criticizing Sandinism with equal or greater fervor than that with which they criticized the Somoza dictatorial regime.

The newspaper LA NACION of Costa Rica, which supported the cause against Somoza back then, is now disenchanted, writing: Where were the mistakes? The deceit was subtle and treacherous. Only those who had exact knowledge and firsthand information about the FSLN's military, strategic and tactical connections with Castro and the control that he had over the revolutionary leadership from the very outset could have had sufficient reservations to have demanded guarantees, and to have charged dearly for cooperation, which was as risky for Costa Rica as that which the Carazo government gave to the guerrillas.

However, to have withdrawn support from the Nicaraguan cause simply because of fear for communism would have been tantamount to adopting an antidemocratic, antihumanitarian and ignoble attitude.

The blame for letting the revolution fall into a new dictatorship of a totalitarian nature -- that is, one that is even more repressive and inhuman -- must rest with the governments that participated in the evolution of decisive incidents. This blame should not be put on the world's newsmen, commentators, politicians, writers and democrats, who opposed the continuation of one of the most blind and bloodiest dynasties in America.

We must note that the foregoing is part of the opinion expressed by Enrique Benavides, a LA NACION columnist. However, sad to say, we cannot share this opinion. Our listeners will clearly recall our statements long before the ousting of Somoza, whose dictatorship we rejected just as much as we rejected those of Carias, Ubieo, and Hernandez Martinez.

If these dictatorships were again imposed, we would fight them, just as we are fighting and have fought and will fight the Sandinist dictatorship, without discriminating between their leftist or rightist natures. We oppose all dictatorships.

But claiming to have made a mistake with the Sandinists is truly infantile. The close relationship between Castro and the Sandinists was always evident. We could clearly see it here, merely by observing their supporters at the university. This relationship was also equally evident in Costa Rica, as were the private dealings that they promoted. Carazo's government was not foreign to them. Neither was the government of Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, nor that of the late Torrijos in Panama.

This is why it would be even sadder to allow Lopez Portillo's proposals to deceive us again. Lopez Portillo is in the same game and is playing the same cards that Castro plays in Central America and the Caribbean -- cards that are being played by the Soviet Union by remote control.

CDR PAPER INTERVIEWS BAYARDO ARCE ON POLICIES

AU231820 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 19 Feb 82 p 6

[Ulrich Kohls interviews: "Nicaragua Defends National Sovereignty; The Working People Solidly Support Sandinist Policy; NEUES DEUTSCHLAND interview with Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the political commission of the FSLN National Leadership" -- date not given]

[Text] "Defending Nicaragua's national sovereignty against the intensified threat of aggression of U.S. imperialism now is our primary task." This is what Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the Political Commission of the FSLN national leadership, told NEUES DEUTSCHLAND correspondent Ulrich Kohls in an interview in Managua.

With this statement, Bayardo Arce, a leading politician of the country, referred to the conclusions of the most recent national assembly, the highest consultative organ of the FSLN national leadership. He explained that the Washington administration was increasingly openly threatening intervention in Nicagagua. In addition, there are projects of the so-called inter-American defense council which aim at overthrowing the Sandinist government, and the recent founding of the "Central American Democratic Community" constitutes a link in the chain of hostile acts against Nicaragua.

When this "community," initiated by the United States, was founded, Nicaragua and Panama were excluded in advance. What is involved is a pact between El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica whose proper objective is -- and many commentators in the Latin American press also see it that way -- to support the regime in El Salvador and to harm Nicaragua. The agreement is "neither Central American nor democratic."

"This is why we are fully entitled to better arm our armed forces and to include the people even more comprehensively in the national defense tasks," Bayardo Arce stressed. "But we would commit a mistake if we were to neglect other key points such as the strengthening or the economy of the consolidation of the social gains."

The commander broached the complicated economic situation. The vast foreign debt inherited from the Somoza regime, the technological lag and other problems are burdening the country; and their solution is being made even more difficult by the economic aggression of the United States, which refuses to grant firmly promised credits and tries to disturb the functioning of the national economy. Regardless of all this, great efforts are being made to produce more foodstuffs and basic products to ensure supplies to the population and at the same time more traditional goods for exports.

"The Sandinist National Assembly has determined the further strengthening of the national unity of all patriotic forces of our country to be another important task. This unity constitutes a decisive prerequisite both for combating any foreign imperialist aggression and for a successful national revival, to create a new society," Bayardo Arce stated.

"We recommend cooperation with all quarters which are interested in the progress and well-being of our fatherland. But we shall permit no tolerance vis-a-vis hostile and counterrevolutionary elements which are trying to sabotage the efforts of the working people who firmly support the Sandinist policy, for revolutionary transformations." All democratic parties and organizations have an opportunity to express an influential opinion and to share in codetermination in the State Council of Nicaragu, our interlocutor underscored. As far as foreign policy is concerned, the Sandinist National Assembly has reaffirmed that Nicaragua endorses the strengthening of peace and the detente process, that it supports the aims of the nonaligned states and denounces the imperialist policy of stepped-up armament.

Bayardo Arce recalled the Nicaraguan initiative to proclaim Central America and the Caribbean a zone of peace. He pointed to the proposals made by Daniel Ortega, member of the FSLN national leadership and coordinator of the government council, at the recent UN General Assembly for a peaceful solution of the conflict in El Salvador. Daniel Ortega's participation in the inauguration of the new civilian president of Honduras has also demonstrated Nicaragua's readiness for detente in the Central American region.

"Once more the Sandinist national leadership expressed its recognition of and gratitude for the solidarity displayed by the socialist community of states whose aid is being rendered without any preconditions and which -- contrary to U.S. practices -- accepts all our concepts of cooperation and collaboration," Bayardo Arce thus replied to the question about Nicaragua's relations with the socialist countries. "We have underscored this once more because Washington is exerting extortionist pressure against us to separate Nicaragua from the countries of the socialist community. We have received genuine proof of unconditional support from the socialist camp, particularly from the Soviet Union, Cuba and the GDR, of which we are proud."

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, SANDINIST LEADERS MEET

PA241248 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Members of political parties that form part of the Socialist International have met with the government junta and with the coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee. The agreements on solidarity with Nicaragua reached at the latest congress of the Socialist International and the opposition of the organization to an armed military intervention in Central America were ratified here in Managua.

Pierre Schori, secretary of the international relations office of the Social Democratic Party of Sweden; (Jack Kussinger) and (Michol Mirmila) of the French Socialist Party; (Marvin van Da) of the Workers' Party of the Netherlands; (Theodore Statis) of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Greece; and Bernt Carlson, secretary general of the Socialist International met with members of the government junta. These European politicians are visiting to gain information about the Central American area. They took advantage of the visit to participate as observers in the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America, COPPPAL, that took place in our capital, Managua.

HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH HUNGARY

PA231638 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Yesterday, the health ministers of Nicaragua and of the Hungarian People's Republic signed a cooperation agreement in health and medical sciences. The agreement was signed by the Hungarian Health Minister, Dr Emil Schultheisz, and by Nicaraguan Health Minister Lea Guido at the Foreign Ministry's ambassadors room. Deputy Health Minister Ivan Tercero and Hungarian Embassy representatives were also present. The agreement establishes the principles for the development of programs in medical research, exchange of health expertise, how to fight infectious diseases and training of medical and paramedical personnel.

PANAMANIAN PARTY LEADER STATES SUPPORT FOR FSLN

PA241258 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] General Omar Torrijos once said that Managua is the capital of Latin American dignity and the Panamanian people will remain in solidarity with the children of Sandino. This statement was made yesterday by Gerardo Gonzalez, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] of Panama. Following the rally on Sunday 21 February, a day that has been characterized by Commander Tomas Borge as the day of Nicaraguan gratitude to Mexico, Radio Sandino interviewed the top leader of the PRD, an organization created by Omar Torrijos.

Like Torrijos the Panamanian people will continue thinking that Managua is the capital of Latin American dignity, Gonzalez said. He added that his people will maintain the support for the consolidation and development of the Sandinist revolution. Let's hear Gerardo Gonzalez, who participated in the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America, COPPPAL:

[Begin recording] General Torrijos was perfectly aware of what he was doing when he supported the Sandinist revolution. He supported it to his last day. Those of us who inherited his political ideas, political commitment, political program and international policies support the Nicaraguan people and their revolutionary process. This was made clear in our speech at COPPPAL. As everybody knows, the relations between our party and the Sandinist front are excellent. And we have complete trust, the same trust expressed by the president of Mexico yesterday, the trust expressed by all the COPPPAL leaders, that this revolutionary process will be consolidated in the democratic and humanistic fashion that it has been following, without falling into the provocations from Central American and international reaction. It will always be able to rely on the solidarity of the people of Latin America and the world. [end recording]

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT RELEASED ON BAIL

PA191639 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Reynaldo Hernandez, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce which groups the nation's most outstanding businessmen, was released on bail yesterday after appearing at the First Criminal Court of Managua. Hernandez is one of the five directors of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, who in October 1981 were charged by a Ministry of Justice prosecutor of violating the economic and social emergency law issued by the Nicaraguan Government in September 1981.

Three of the defendants were sentenced to 7 months in prison while Hernandez eluded the trial by taking refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua. The president of the Chamber of Commerce left the embassy after the revolutionary government last Sunday ordered the release on bail of the three COSEP leaders who had been sentenced, reducing their prison terms being served at the national penitentiary by 3 months.

MDN ENDORSES BISHOPS' HUMAN RIGHTS CHARGES

PA241908 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Letter from Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN, to Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference dated 22 February 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Most Reverend Bishops: In your capacity as pastors of our people and worthy representatives of Christ who point out the truth to your faithful in order for true justice to exist, we address you to express our full and unconditional support for the conscientious denouncement [you] issued on 18 February in Granada regarding problems on our country's the Atlantic Coast.

We feel that your statement has given rise to strong concern among Nicaraguans in view of the events you denounce. We think it should not be reason for violent attacks by any person or organization. We also believe that no one in this country has sufficient moral strength to question the authoritative voice of our pastors. The moral trajectory you have followed ever since you first devoted yourselves to serving God as priests is living testimony of the fact that you are at all times and under all circumstances on the side of truth, which is tantamount to being on the side of Christ and the oppressed.

For this reason, as members of the MDN National Council and as Nicaraguans and Christians, we tell you that we will always be united for you regardless of the consequences. With nothing further to discuss and with all the consideration you deserve, we remain,

Very truly yours, MDN National Council, [signed] Alfonso Robelo C., president; Alvaro Jerez P., (Roberto Urros); Fabio Gadea Mantilla; (Cesar Aviles); (Daniel O. Mantilla); (Jaime Solorzono); (Nestor Noguera); (Mario Torres); (Heriberto Gadea); (Guillermo Canales); (Walter Valladares); Anibal Arana and (Juan Munguia).

SOVIET VEHICLES ARRIVE FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

PA181948 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Managua, 18 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- A total of 261 dump trucks assigned to the Nicaraguan Construction Ministry have arrived from the Soviet Union. These vehicles arrived aboard the Soviet ship "Magnitogorsk" and will be used in building roads in various Nicaraguan areas.

The newspaper BARRICADA today reported that another 107 "Lada" vehicles and 96 motorcycles also arrived in the same ship. The purchase of the Russian-made vehicles was made by the Nicaraguan import enterprise.

FOOD PRODUCTION COMPANY CREATED WITH MEXICAN AID

PA191649 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Nicaragua is receiving additional solidarity and cooperation from the Mexican Government. Nicaragua and Mexico signed an investment agreement today for a great enterprise that will be called the Nicaraguan company for the production of agricultural foodstuffs. The charter for this company was signed at the Government House today by (Francisco Medina Rabago), Mexican secretary of agriculture and hydraulic resources [as heard] and president of the UN World Food Council; and Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform [MIDINRA]. This company, which will have 100 million cordobas in capital, will boost economic development and the production of basic grains in our country.

The project is composed of several phases. It will start by sowing 3,300 hectares of rice in June, with an estimated production of approximately 250,000 quintals, which would be equivalent to 15 percent of the country's production.

This company will control 15,000 hectares located primarily in the central plains in Leon Department, north of Managua Lake. Corn, beans and other crops will also be planted. The plan will also include a cattle project.

August Gomez Villanueva, the Mexican ambassador to Nicaragua, and Pedro Antonio Blandon, the MIDINRA deputy minister and director of the national food program were present at the ceremony.

MIDINRA Minister Wheelock expressed appreciation for Mexico's gesture of solidarity and cooperation, saying: [Begin Wheelock recording] In this significant event, we are formally creating an enterprise that will boost the production of basic grains.

We also want to express our optimism for the future of this firm and our recognition to the Mexican Government, led by Jose Lopez Portillo, and especially to companero and friend (Medina Rabago).

We name you personally because we know that you have promoted this cooperation with Nicaragua in the food program. Today's ceremony offers further evidence of [words indistinct] cooperation in which we have always received the solidarity of the Mexican Government.

ROBELO SUPPORT FOR RIGHTS CHARGES NOTED

PA221639 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Like this radio station, the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference has denounced the frontist regime's human rights violations on the Atlantic coast.

The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference has issued a serious document denouncing the violations to human rights on our Atlantic coast by the dictatorship's frontist hordes.

Referring to the bishops' document, Eng Alfonso Robelo, president of the Democratic Coordinating Board, has corroborated the truthfulness of this station's assertion that the Episcopal Conference document deserves respect and credibility because the bishops have first hand knowledge of the situation in Zelaya.

Robelo also described the document as true. Therefore, through its president, the Democratic Coordinating Board corroborates the charges regarding human rights violations on our Atlantic coast by the present dictatorship.

Thousands and thousands of Miskitos, who lived on the banks of the Coco River in Segovia, have been taken by the frontist dictatorship to concentration camps located a little further into the country's interior.

According to reports from our intelligence section, the frontist dictatorship has imprisoned more than 16,000 brothers, 16,000 Miskito brothers, in those concentration camps.

Thus, the church joins this station in denouncing the repression in the Atlantic coast.

OPPOSITION BURNS 200 MANZANAS OF SUGARCANE

PA212128 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0300 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Fires in illegally confiscated ranches have caused the loss of 120 manzanas of sugarcane. The sugarcane in some 200 [as heard] manzanas of La Esperanza ranch were set on fire this week. This ranch is one of the many illegally confiscated by the dictatorship and it produces sugar which is sent to Cuba, to pay for the weapons arriving from Fidel's regime. The loss for the FSLN is of some 17,000 quintals of processed sugar and the mangy dogs will now have to find other ways to pay their Cuban comrades for the P-55 tanks used to repress our people. Most of the sugar produced by this ranch is sent to Cuba and thereby helps to create the great rationing and scarcity imposed by the dictatorship for the consumption of this product.

This new blow to the economic interests of the FSLN regime has created problems for the new dictators who will be compelled to take the dollars out of their own pockets to pay their master Fidel Castro.

HAVANA COMMENTARY ON REAGAN SPEECH TO OAS

FL242200 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2121 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The announced speech by Ronald Reagan to the OAS, where he presented his so-called Caribbean Basin plan, was a mixture of lies, cynicism and threats. Ignoring the meaning of the word colonialism, the U.S. President accused Cuba of trying to introduce a new kind of colonialism, with which he demonstrated once again his ignorance of history and his unlimited cynicism. Reagan forgot past and present history and with a real display of demagogy declared himself champion of peace and defender of the Caribbean peoples to whom he offered the ridiculous sum of $350 million as economic aid. In truth, the so-called aid is only an attempt to end the economic deterioration and political loss of prestige of the OAS, an organization subordinate to the U.S. imperialist interests.

In his speech to the OAS, the U.S. President stressed that the governments of the Caribbean and Central America should buy more arms from the United States for the purpose of guaranteeing what he called freedom in the area. In reality, the head of the Yankee government is subordinating the so-called economic aid to the area's countries to greater expenditures in arms by these countries to repress their peoples. Of course the beneficiaries will be the monopolies manufacturing war equipment. Ronald Reagan threatened that the United States will do everything necessary to preserve the area's security, which in his hypocritical language means military aid to the tyrannies such as the one in El Salvador, and eventually direct intervention. As a recipe for resolving poverty and hunger, he announced his plan for strengthening private enterprise in the area by means of investments and free trade.

With the waiver of customs tariffs for exports to the United States and $350 million, Ronald Reagan is pretending to resolve the problems of the Caribbean and Central American peoples. In his speech to the OAS, Reagan avoided replying to the proposals of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, who in his recent statement described in realistic terms the dramatic situation of the Latin American countries. However, Reagan stressed his plan for the Caribbean and Central America, based on the principle of invading the area's economies with private capital, and thus reviving the Marshall Plan introduced in Europe after World War II. The Marshall Plan subordinated the European economy to the U.S. economy, and now Reagan wants to do the same in the Caribbean and Central America.

In a real display of cynicism, the U.S. President quoted our national hero, Jose Marti, with which he tried to hide his bellicose and provocative policy. Marti said: Humanity is composed of those who love and create and by those who hate and destroy, precisely referring to the imperialist and criminal role of U.S. policy toward the Latin American peoples. However, Reagan gave another connotation to those words, with which he showed his emotional hatred toward Cuba. In his speech to the OAS he spoke of the establishment of democracies in Latin America, but he did not state clearly to which nations he was referring. Of course, Reagan did not mention that fascist governments such as the ones in Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia or El Salvador were imposed upon the peoples on the orders of U.S. leaders.

No Official Comment

FL250015 Bridgetown CANA in English 2339 GMT 24 Feb 82

[By Lionel Martin]

[Text] Havana, 24 Feb (CANA-REUTER) -- Cuban authorities had no immediate official comment on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's speech in Washington today, strongly criticising alleged subversion by Cuba and Nicaragua in the region.

One Cuban official however told REUTERS that he saw Mr Reagan's proposals as the blueprint for a "Pax Americana" in the region with the United States imposing its views, without negotiations with nations that might oppose them.

Mr Reagan, vowing to oppose "brutal and totalitarian" communism in the Caribbean, unveiled a plan linking increased aid, trade preferences and investment incentives for Central American countries. The Cuban official here said that President Reagan, in his view, had totally ignored Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's weekend proposal for the United States to seek a negotiated political settlement to lessen tensions in Central America and the Caribbean.

Cuban President Fidel Castro, in a letter to Mr Lopez Portillo on Monday wrote: "You can count on the Government and people of Cuba and on me to find (?a way) to eliminate the tensions and open the way to a democratic and peaceful solution to the troublesome problems that weigh down on the majority of nations of the region." Many foreign diplomats based in Havana privately expressed the view that President Castro's letter was one of the most comprehensive statements of the Cuban view of Caribbean problems.

The diplomats however differed among themselves as to whether the conditions set down by Cuba for its collaboration in lessening regional tension represented a rigid position or initial bargaining points only. President Castro wrote to Mr Lopez Portillo that "if the Government of the United States, the source of all the problems that affect Latin America and the Caribbean today, agrees not to invade its neighbors, ends its continuous threats, stops employing its weapons and money to support genocidal regimes and ceases its subversive activities, then Cuba is ready to collaborate...in bringing to the region, an atmosphere of peace, mutual respect and necessary transformation to which we too aspire." One Western diplomat said all available signs pointed to Cuba being ready to sit down today with the United States to discuss outstanding differences.

COMMENTARY ON LOPEZ PORTILLO, REAGAN TALKS

FL250220 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The proposals made in Managua last Monday [as heard] by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo -- proposals inspired by the noble desires to guarantee for the area of Central America and the Caribbean a peace based on the principle of absolute respect for others' rights -- have been received with profound hopes by broad political and social sectors in this continent and in the whole world. The Cubans, as our commander in chief said in his message to the Mexican president, agree with that noble yearning, and we believe that it is possible to achieve it if the rights of the countries in the area to their sovereignty and self-determination and the right to freely choose their own future are taken into account.

The Lopez Portillo speech was an appeal for good sense and reflection to those who have chosen a road of verbal and active violence, promoting and protecting the crimes and abuses of murderous cliques which only remain in power with U.S. aid. An analysis of the repercussions in Latin America and the world of the speech by Lopez Portillo indicated that the speech could serve to reduce a bit the aggressiveness of the expected speech by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, a speech made this afternoon after being postponed. This was not the case. A few hours ago, Reagan spoke in Washington before the OAS to announce an emerging plan of economic and military aid for Central America and the Caribbean, aid which is conditioned to the commitment that those who receive it must fight communism and promote even more Yankee private investments in their territories.

The ridiculous sum of $350 million for economic aid and $60 million for armaments will fall mainly in the hands of the Salvadoran genocidal regime and some others who submit themselves to Washington's dictates.

Cuba and Nicaragua, Reagan said, can enjoy this aid if they change their policies and join the slaves' cart. In his speech today, a speech which must have disappointed his allies and friends, Reagan used again an aggressive and threatening verbosity against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada and blamed us for all the evils in this world.

We believe that turning one's back to the proposals of the Mexican president is a political mistake made by the Washington government and a serious threat to peace. The United States is the source of the problems affecting Latin America and the Caribbean, and if it wants peace it must stop threatening and attacking our peoples, suspend deliveries of arms to genocidal regimes and abstain from training murderous traitors to carry out sabotage, attacks and mercenary aggressions.

As Fidel said in his letter to Lopez Portillo, Cuban arms will never be a danger to the fraternal countries in the continent or anywhere else in the world. Reagan in a demagogic and cynical manner quoted Jose Marti at the end of his speech at the OAS, thereby offending the memory of our apostle. Marti never supported crime, oppression, exploitation and deception. Marti fought against all this, for the freedom of Cuba and Latin America and the Caribbean, precisely to prevent on time -- with the independence of Cuba and Puerto Rico -- The United States from expanding in the area and from descending even more strongly on our American lands.

In summary, Cuba does not accept blackmail, threats or ultimatums. As Fidel said, we are prepared to defend our dignity, our sovereignty and our principles to the last man and woman of our revolutionary country and to the last drop of our blood.

PRESIDENT CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE TO LOPEZ PORTILLO

FL231353 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text of message sent by Cuban President Fidel Castro to Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo on the occasion of his recent speech in Nicaragua]

[Text] Esteemed president and dear friend; I have learned of your extraordinary speech on the occasion of accepting the decoration bearing the illustrious name of Augusto Cesar Sandino, with which the Nicaraguan Government and people have, very deservingly, honored you.

Those remarks confirm once again your outstanding condition as a statesman in the Mexican line of continuity begun by the illustrious Benito Juarez, when he proclaimed that the respect of the rights of others is peace. Cuba agrees with your noble yearning of guaranteeing to our Central American and Caribbean regions a situation of peace based on the area peoples' rights to full sovereignty and complete self-determination, and to carry out the political and social reforms that they themselves choose in a democratic manner.

You may count on the Cuban Government and people and my personal commitment [in your effort] to find ways to eliminate tensions and make it possible for a democratic and peaceful solution to the agonizing problems burdening the majority of the countries in the area. Without whose solution there can be neither peace nor an orderly process in these lands which are in turmoil as a result of hunger, economic backwardness, despotism and interventionism from those who persist on maintaining, at any price, bloody regimes that are hated by their peoples.

Cuba has repeatedly proclaimed its desire for peace. No people in our America should fear Cuban arms, which will never be wielded for fratricidal aggression. Those weapons are here solely and exclusively for the defense of the fatherland. We are ready to offer full guarantees to all in this sense.

Cuba's need for adequate means of defense, which demand serious economic sacrifices, is clearly explained before Latin American and world public opinion in the light of the aggression against Cuba, beginning in 1959 and continuing by the successive governments of the United States of America.

Persisting on this antagonism, as unequal as it is unjust the Reagan government insists on being the most aggressive. The tone of its threats grows more and more, while the campaign of lies and slander against our country attains unprecedented levels. Its highest spokesmen are obstinate in not renouncing military attack as one of the options which, illegitimately and without respect for international rights, they mention as a reserve for punishing and destroying Cuba, as if this were possible, for its irreversible decision to be independent. Therefore, it is the legitimate, sacred and irreversible right of self-defense which has led the Cuban people to organize and prepare themselves militarily in a massive manner.

For the brother countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Cuban arms will never be a threat, but a symbol of the decision once expressed by Jose Marti, that of stopping in time, with Cuba's independence, the United States from extending itself through the area and falling upon our lands of America with that added strength. In reality, we constitute a solid and irreducible trench against expansionism, which has been so painfully expensive to the peoples of this hemisphere, which the heroic Mexican nation has felt in its own flesh at a high price of blood, humiliation and large areas of native territory.

If the U.S. Government, the source of all problems affecting Latin America and the Caribbean today, makes the commitment of not attacking its neighbors, if it puts an end to its continued threats, if it stops using its arms and finances in support of genocidal regimes, if it ends its subversive activities -- actions which lack the most elemental legitimacy -- Cuba is ready to cooperate with the noble efforts which you have outlined in Managua to bring to the region a climate of peace, mutual respect and necessary reforms to which we also aspire.

Cuba, esteemed president, will inalterably maintain that sensible and constructive position with the same vigor with which we reject and will continue to reject emphatically any attempt of the U.S. Government to blackmail, intimidate and impose conditions or ultimatums on our country. In the case of any attack, we shall know how to defend our dignity, sovereignty and principles at any price, to the last man and woman of our revolutionary people, to the last drop of our blood. I greet you with the deepest friendship and highest consideration. (Signed) Fidel Castro Ruz

HAVANA SEES U.S. HAND IN MANAGUA AIRPORT ATTACK

PA241418 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 23 Feb 82

["Our America" Commentary]

[Excerpts] Last Saturday's terrorist attack at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport at Managua confirms the charges of the past few weeks regarding aggressive imperialist plans against Nicaragua. Even under the best of circumstances, it would be naive to think that this attack, in which three people were killed and many others wounded, is an isolated act unrelated to U.S. policy to destabilize the Managua regime and thus prepare the conditions for greater attacks against Sandino's fatherland.

This imperialist policy is not new. It is really a repetition of the CIA, the Pentagon and the Washington government's counterrevolutionary actions against the Cuban revolution, against the Chilean Government of Popular Unity and against other progressive revolutionary governments of the region.

Could we really believe that it was only by chance that the dynamite attack at the Managua airport occurred on the eve of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's visit to Nicaragua?

The Mexican president went to Nicaragua to personally express the solidarity of his government and of all Mexicans with the people of Nicaragua who are constantly threatened and attacked by the United States and its satellites in the region. This Mexican solidarity, as well as the solidarity daily expressed by the peoples and many governments of the world, irks the imperialists because it constitutes a solid barrier against the hegemonic plans of the United States.

The U.S. imperialists are also mistaken if they believe that they will frighten the people of Sandino with their threats and aggressions against the new Nicaragua and that this will keep the Nicaraguans from their dedicated tasks of national reconstruction and of building a new, free and sovereign society. The actions of imperialism and its Central American puppets against the Sandinist revolution increase daily. But the determination of the Nicaraguan people to defend, until the last consequences, the free fatherland they conquered after a long and heroic struggle against Somoza's dictatorship also increases and reaffirms itself.

The Washington government should realize that military aggression against Nicaragua would unleash in Central America and the Caribbean events of unpredictable consequences for the peace in the region and all the world.

HAVANA CALLS NATO MANEUVERS 'CLEAR PROVOCATION'

FL231807 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1248 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Commentary by Roberto Agudo from "Revista de la Manana" editorial staff and Javier Rodriguez from the PRENSA LATINA staff]

[Excerpts] Today, comrades, because of the provocation it implies in a world full of tensions, because of the importance and danger that it brings, we must return to a topic that very directly concerns us Cubans, Caribbeans, and not just us but all Latin Americans, and even more, as citizens of the world. That topic is the maneuvers which from 8 to 18 March will take place in the Gulf of Mexico and eventually in neighboring waters that separate the United States from Cuba, by naval units from some of the warmongering NATO bloc member-countries.

The announcement of the maneuvers is a clear and simple provocation, there is not the slightest doubt of that. The announcement has been received in some places with surprise, in others with disbelief and in a general sense with indignation. Those are the proper and natural reactions of world public opinion which, because of the United States and its leaders, is now experiencing a time of greater tension and more danger than can be remembered, since the days that preceded World War II. It must be stated and the warning must be clearly given without beating around the bush, that the so-called Gulf of Mexico maneuvers transform Central America and in particular the Caribbean -- and not what is known as the Middle East, as it should be -- into the area of greatest tension and danger; and, why not say it, into the greatest danger spot for a world war, above all, if the White House, the Pentagon and some of their principal associates persist in playing these dangerous games.

[Rodriguez] Right. In reality, the NATO maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits, besides creating a dangerous precedent, confirm the bellicose and warmongering essence of this organization. It also represents further proof that NATO basically plays the role of cold war tool and a tool used by the United States to carry out the cold war and aggressive plans that it is currently conducting around the world. Cuba has consistently declared itself open for negotiations with dignity, negotiations which would imply U.S. respect for the rights of the Latin American people. These NATO maneuvers in our waters, these threatening military exercises constitute the reply offered by the United States against the peace proposals of the people.

COMMUNIQUE WITH PDRY FROM 'ALI NASIR'S VISIT

FL242035 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1919 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] The text of the joint Cuban-Yemeni communique on the recent visit to Cuba of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], has been issued in Havana. The Cuban delegation headed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the PDRY delegation headed by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad held official talks that were characterized by a full identity of views in the topics discussed. During the talks a profound analysis was made of the present state of bilateral relations, confirming the decision to continue to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the Cuban and Democratic Yemeni peoples. The two sides reaffirmed the principles of scientific socialism and of proletarian internationalism.

The joint Cuban-PDRY communique stresses that the PDRY delegation highly valued the significance of the Cuban revolution, reiterating its militant support because of its unyielding opposition to imperialism and its consistent practice of proletarian internationalism. The Cuban side expressed its appreciation for the Yemeni people's success in consolidating the revolutionary government. The two sides stressed the need to join efforts in common actions to face imperialism's bellicose policy and blackmail. On examining the complex situation in the Middle East, the delegations of Cuba and Democratic Yemen expressed their deep preoccupation over the development of events in that area which are a great danger threatening security and peace.

During the official Cuban-Yemeni talks, the two sides condemned the bellicose and adventurous character of the policy of the present U.S. administration. The two delegations coincided in pointing to the danger which this situation represents for international peace and security, and in this context stressed their appreciation for the firmness and serenity with which the Soviet Union carries out its policy of peace.

The Yemeni side also expressed its appreciation for the steps taken by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Nonaligned Movement, to try to find a political, peaceful and just solution to the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The two delegations stressed the historic importance of the nonaligned countries movement and the increasing role which it is undertaking in the international arena.

'Ali Nasir Message to Fidel

FL231620 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Upon ending his visit to our country, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, has sent a message to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in which he expresses gratitude for the hospitality accorded by the Cuban people to the South Yemeni delegation. We are pleased with the good results achieved during this visit. We are returning to our country, carrying with us feelings of love as well as magnificent impressions for the gains attained by the Cuban people, the message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Fidel stresses.

The secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party also notes his admiration for Cuba's heroic firmness in the defense of socialism and its loyalty to the principles of proletarian internationalism. We will work for attaining the objectives of our two revolutions, the message notes.

JAMAICA

SEAGA COMMENTS ON CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE

FL242335 Bridgetown CANA in English 2309 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 24 Feb (CANA) -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga tonight described as "bold, historic and far-reaching in concept," U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Caribbean basin aid initiative unveiled in Washington today. The scheme, detailed by President Reagan in a speech to the Organisation of American States (OAS), proposed an extra 350 million dollars (U.S.) in aid to the Caribbean and Central America, plus a series of trade preferences and investment incentives. Centerpiece of the Washington plan, which needs legislature approval, will be a 12-year period of duty free entry into the U.S. market for Caribbean basin products, except textiles and clothes. Said Mr Seaga in a statement:

"The proposals of the Caribbean basin initiative outlined by President Reagan today at the OAS in Washington are bold, historic, and far-reaching in concept, especially in the stimulation of trade and investment. In particular, the one-way free trade area incentive, never before offered to any other region by the United States, will allow duty-free entry of Caribbean exports to the United States, an attraction which could magnetize the Caribbean as a major new production center, generating strong growth and employment. The Caribbean basin initiative, as a programme to stimulate economic investment, is a positive mechanism, differing only in the degree of impact from country to country. Those countries which have the right investment climate and domestic policies to encourage buoyancy in the private productive sector will obviously benefit the most.

"The new policy pronouncements of the Caribbean basin initiative outlined by President Reagan are a serious attempt by Washington to address the real economic problems of the region, and are particularly welcome because this far-reaching programme includes recognition of the need for increased training to go hand-in-hand with economic incentives. "I am personally pleased that recognition of the vital role of the human element in this equation includes the activities of the Peace Corps.

"Venezuela and Mexico have already extended generous oil credits to some countries in the region, and Canada has announced a doubling of its aid programme to the Caribbean. Nonetheless, it is hoped that the Caribbean basin initiative proposal will stimulate further responses from other industrialized countries. This would be particularly meaningful in additional aid flows to improve infrastructure to boost the area of assistance in which the Caribbean basin initiative is least positive.

ST. LUCIA

PILGRIM COMMENTS ON REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN PLAN

FL250030 Bridgetown CANA in English 2345 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 24 Feb (CANA) -- Saint Lucia's interim prime minister, Michael Pilgrim, today said he would welcome any opportunity to meet President Reagan for talks on his Caribbean basin aid project during his April 6-10 visit to Barbados. Mr Pilgrim said: "If my government is invited, I would be happy to attend along with my three top advisers from the three political parties in the interest of national unity." John Compton of the United Workers Party (UWP), George Odlum of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) and Allan Louisy of the Saint Lucia Labor Party (SLP) are the three top advisers on finance planning and development and foreign affairs. Mr Pilgrim said he would accept any initiative which was aimed at assisting the economies of Saint Lucia and the rest of the Caribbean. Pilgrim said that Reagan's proposed scheme to lower tariff barriers, provide some emergency development aid and spur foreign investment basically meets Saint Lucia's approval. But he noted: "We would prefer aid to be channelled to St Lucia on a bilateral basis, rather than through regional institutions. Aid through regional institutions takes a great deal of time to be processed, and for us, we have several important projects which need immediate cash assistance, like repairs to our roads and for housing schemes." Pilgrim said that his government would also welcome aid from regional institutions, but stressed that an immediate cash flow was urgently required. Mr Reagan will be meeting some Caribbean leaders during his visit. State Department officials said the aid plan would be on the agenda.